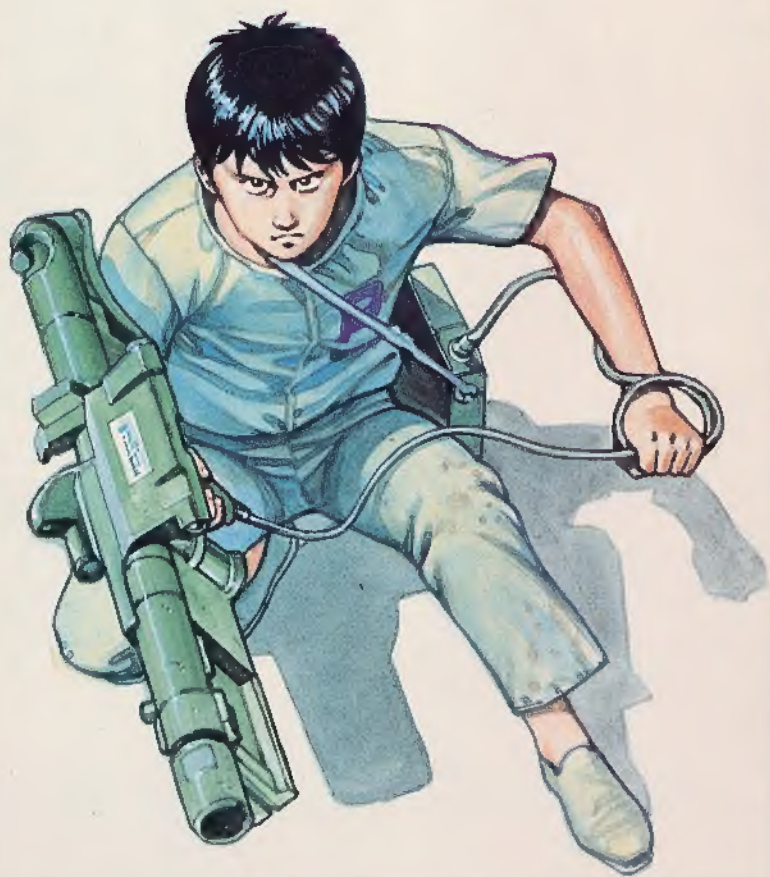


AKIRA 8™



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 8

WEAPON OF VENGEANCE

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

Kaneda and his friends, teenage delinquents, make an unauthorized motorcycle run into the old city to check out the old site. They encounter a terrified child, known only as **Number 26**, possessing extraordinary

telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the paranormal boy gravely injures **Tetsuo**, one of **Kaneda's** close friends. Then, he vanishes.

The next night, at **Harukiya**, a tough local dive, **Kaneda** attempts, unsuccessfully, to pick up a newcomer, **Kay**. She and her companion, **Ryu**, are part of an underground resistance group dedicated to learning what is happening in the old city and putting a stop to it.

Trouble ensues, and both delinquents and resistance fighters again encounter **Number 26**. Then the ominous **Colonel** in charge of the covert operation appears with a secret weapon—**Number 27**, a crippled paranormal child named **Masaru**. **Masaru** astonishes the resistance fighters by addressing **Number 26** as **Takashi**. **Kay** and **Ryu** had previously assumed that **Number 26** was the **Colonel's** ultimate weapon—the as-yet unseen paranormal giant code-named **Akira**. **Kaneda** is separated from the resistance fighters, but he manages to intercept and hide a pill meant for **Takashi**, who is recaptured by the **Colonel's** men.

Tetsuo—who following his accident was taken to a hospital by soldiers serving the **Colonel**—is taken from school by the **Colonel** after his recovery. Under the treatments of the **Colonel's** chief medical officer, **Tetsuo** exhibits powerful telekinetic abilities...and undergoes great pain. Finally, **Tetsuo** breaks out of the **Colonel's** installation, using his burgeoning powers to slaughter

all who oppose him.

Meanwhile, **Kaneda**, trying to learn what is happening to **Tetsuo**, re-encounters the members of the resistance, and is brought back to their headquarters. Questioned by **Ryu**, he denies all knowledge of the stolen drug. When soldiers enter the resistance hideout in force, **Kaneda** and **Kay** manage together to escape to **Harukiya**, where the bartender agrees to shelter them. A spy from the Colonel's organization learns of their hideout, but he is caught and left for dead by a resistance fighter.

Kiyoko, another of the psychic children under the Colonel's control, announces that **Akira**—who is asleep, and expected to remain so for some time—is going to awaken in the near future.

At **Harukiya**, **Yamagata** and **Kaneda**'s other friends tell of **Tetsuo**'s new powers and of his bloodthirstiness. **Kaneda** and **Yamagata** lead the local street gangs on an all-out attack to stop **Tetsuo**. Then the **Colonel**, alerted by his informant, arrives at **Harukiya**, and forces the bartender to tell him where the fugitives have gone.

Yamagata and his team corner **Tetsuo** in a warehouse. Most of the gang dies, and **Kaneda** reaches the scene in time to see **Tetsuo** brutally kill **Yamagata**. Enraged, **Kaneda** shoots **Tetsuo**...who survives.

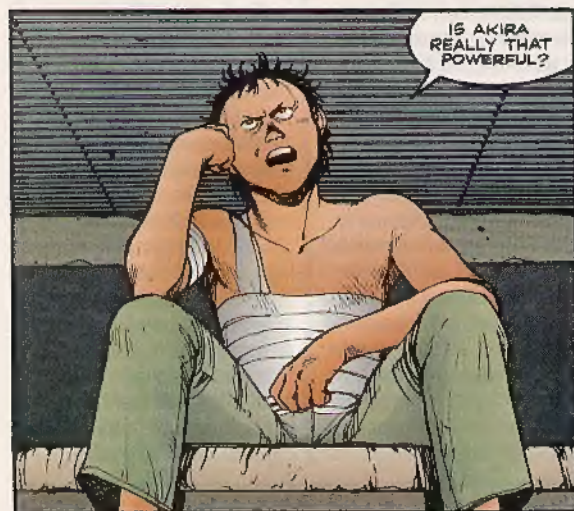
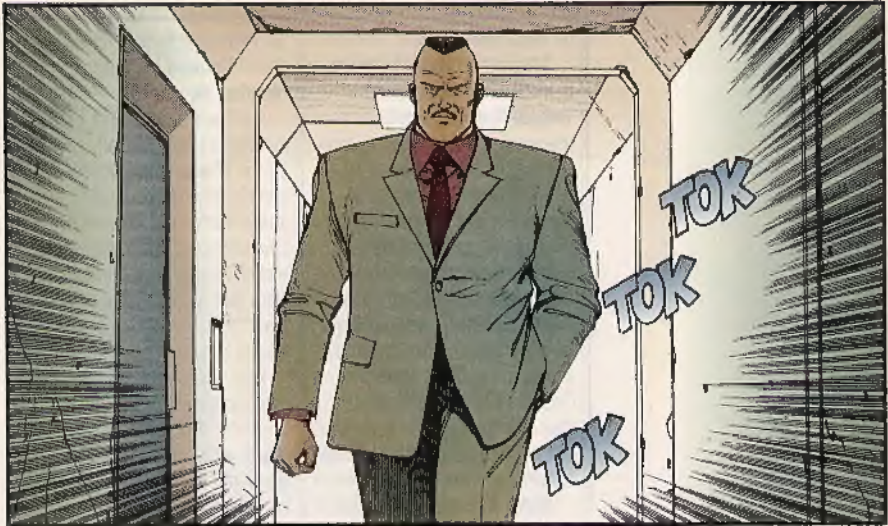
As the **Colonel** arrives, **Tetsuo** grabs and swallows the drug **Kaneda** had hidden, apparently dying of an overdose. A few minutes later, the terrible delinquent recovers, more

powerful than ever, and the elated **Colonel** rechristens him **Number 41**.

Back at the Colonel's installation, **Tetsuo**'s body shrugs off the effects of his wounds... and his mind continues its descent into madness and evil. Eavesdropping on the **Colonel** and his doctor, he is intrigued to learn that he is not unique, and that other paranormals possess talents he lacks.

Ryu, working undercover at a construction site next to the Colonel's base, meets with **Nezu**, who publically leads the governmental opposition party but secretly is a resistance leader as well, and the pair share new evidence on the scale of the **Akira** project. **Nezu**, in turn, consults **Lady Miyako**, the head of a powerful religious cult of which **Nezu** is a member. **Lady Miyako**, who bears the **Number 19** on her hand marking her as one of the Colonel's series, warns of impending catastrophe which may be linked to **Akira**.

Kiyoko, **Takashi**, and **Masaru** fear **Tetsuo**'s power and discuss plans to hinder him. Then **Kay**—who, like **Kaneda**—has been brought to the installation under guard, escapes, displaying a variety of psychic powers, including telekinesis and teleportation. She attacks **Tetsuo**, almost killing him, and helps **Kaneda** to shake off his guards, acting like a sleepwalker the whole time. As guards close in on the escapees, **Tetsuo** quizzes the doctor about **Akira**, and learns that his chief rival is trapped in cryogenic sleep.





...OVER
THIRTY
YEARS
AGO.



YOU MEAN...
AKIRA'S
BEEN
SLEEPING
SINCE
BEFORE
WORLD WAR
THREE?



IN A MANNER
OF SPEAKING,
YES.



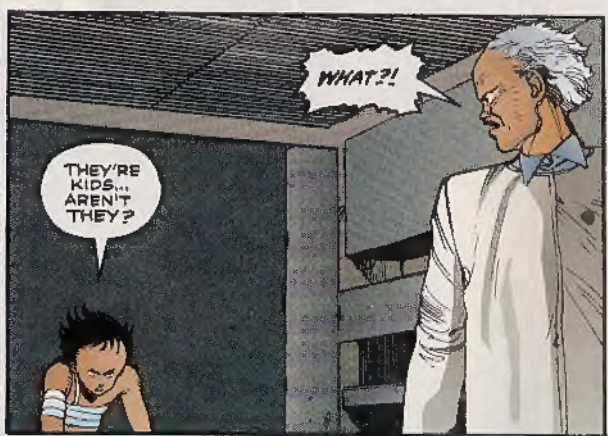
WHAT ABOUT
OTHERS...
BESIDES
AKIRA AND
ME?



THERE
ARE A FEW.

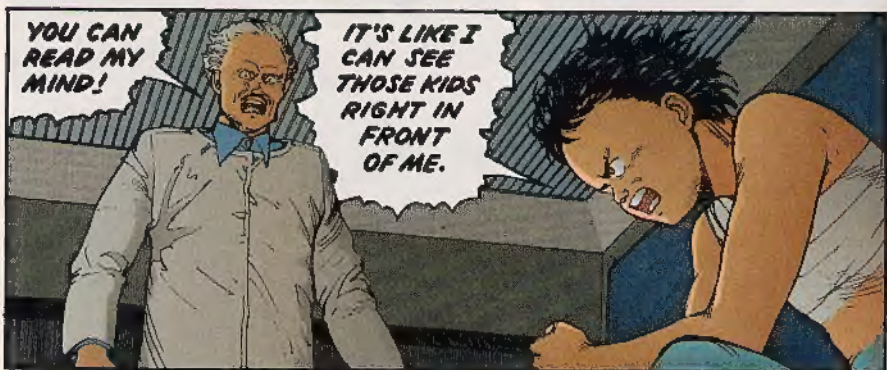


YOU'LL BE
MEETING
THEM
SOON.



WHAT?!

THEY'RE
KIDS...
AREN'T
THEY?





THIS IS THE
ARMORY!



HOW'D I
GET IN
HERE?



WUHHH...



...KAY?

Yoo-Hoo!
KA-AAY!

UH...

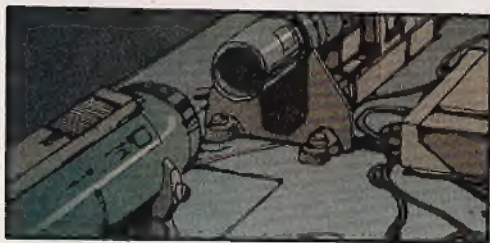
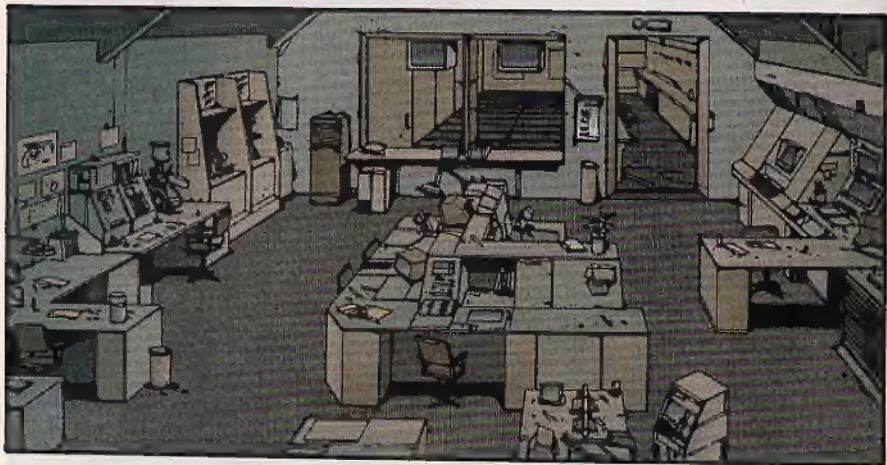


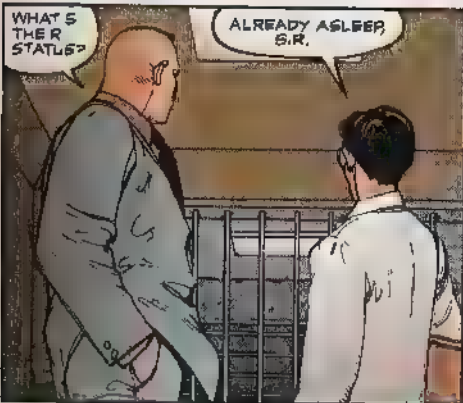
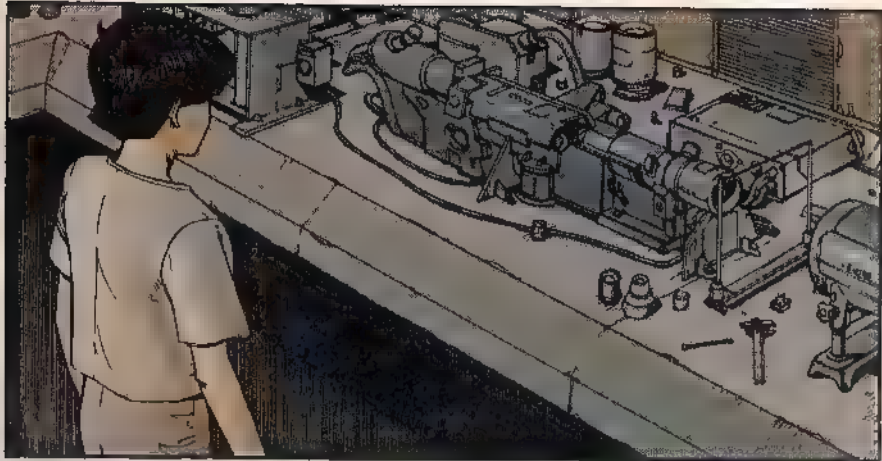
KA-A-AAY!!!

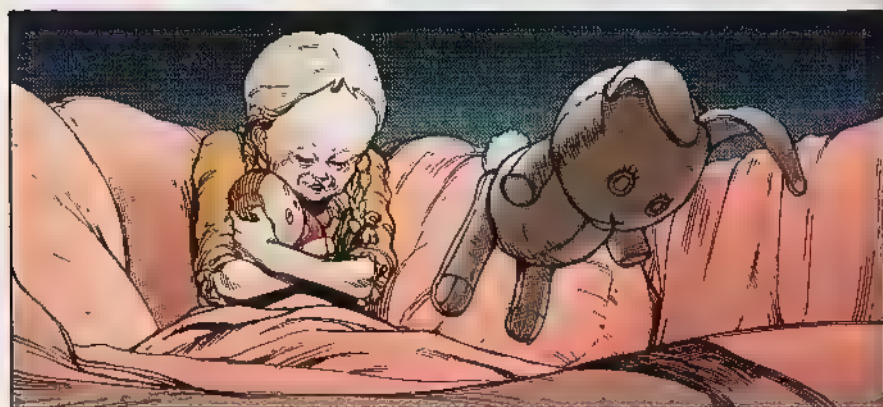
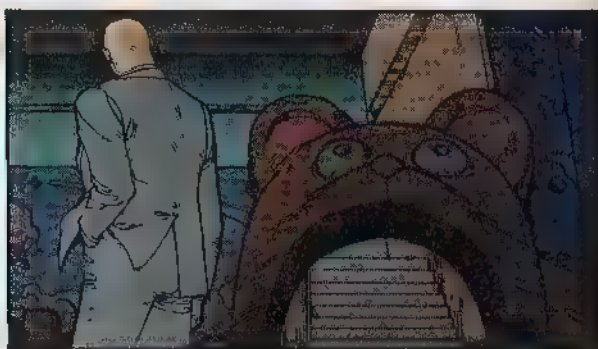
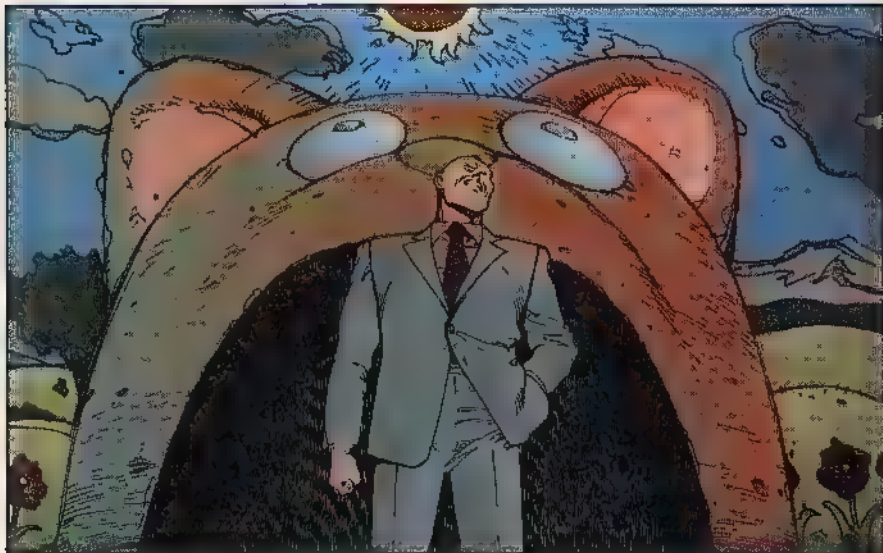


DEVELOPMENTAL
RESEARCH

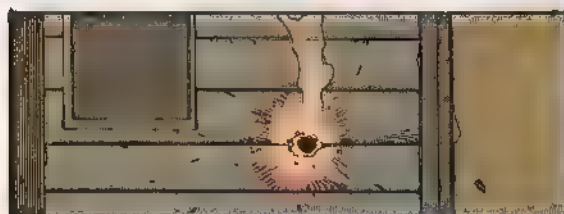
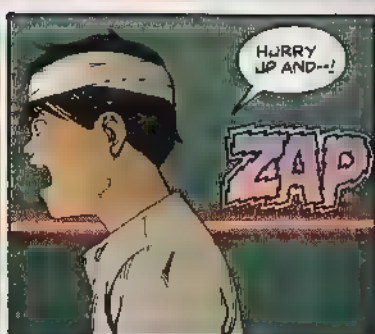
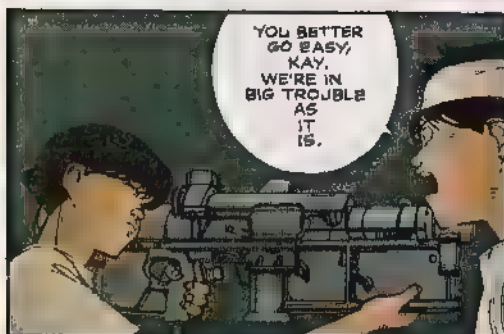
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ONLY

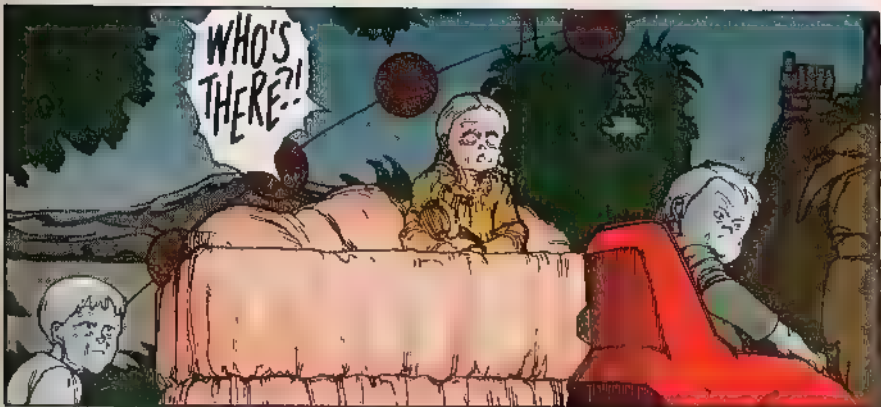
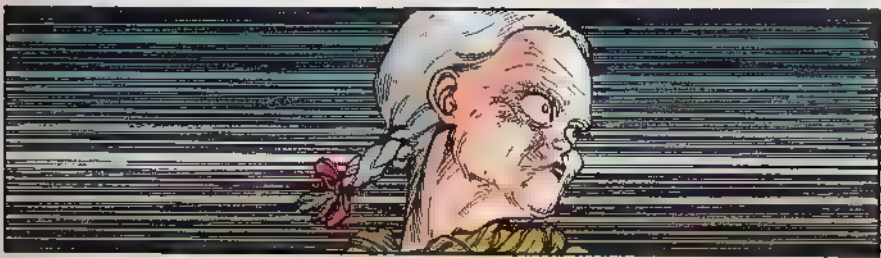












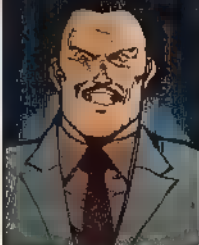
**WHAT IS THE
MEANING OF
THIS?!**



I SHOULD
HAVE
REAL ZED
THE MOMENT
I SAW
THE TAPES.

THAT
GIRL USED
TELEPOR-
TATION...

AN
EXCEEDINGLY
RARE TALENT
...WHICH YOU
POSSESS



**WHAT
DO YOU
HOPE
TO
ACCOMPLISH
USING
HER?!**



KILL

"KILL"...?!

YESS...

KILL...
TETSUO.

TE-TETSUO?!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
KILL
HIM?

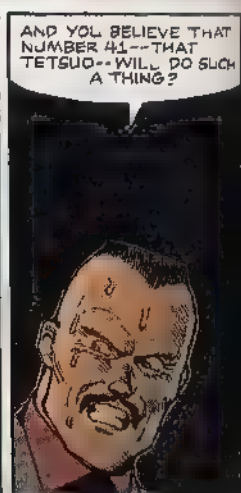
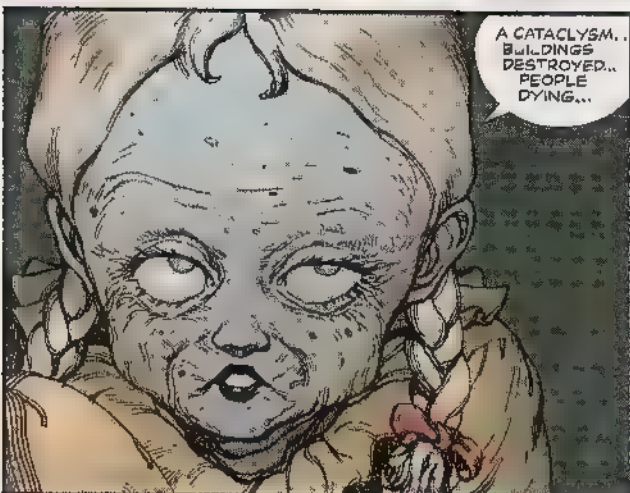
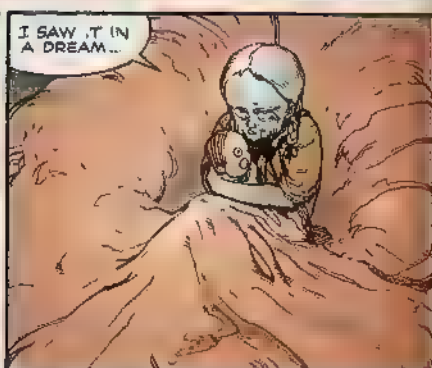
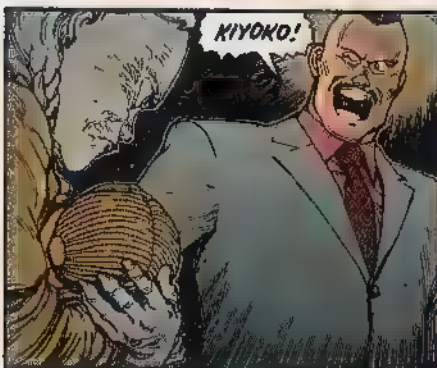
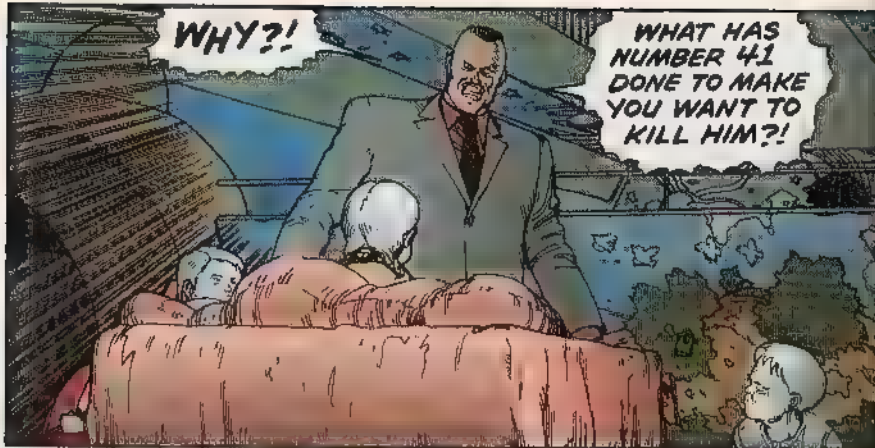
HUNH?!

IS THAT
WHAT THE
GUN'S
FOR?

WHAT'S THIS
ALL ABOUT,
ANYWAY?!

IS HE
HERE?

IS TETSUO
IN THIS
BUILDING?!



NO...BUT AKIRA
WILL.

AKIRA!

WHY WOULD
AKIRA
DESTROY ANYTHING?
AND WHAT
HAS
NUMBER
41
TO DO
WITH
IT?

THAT'S WHY
WE HAVE TO
KILL
TETSUO.

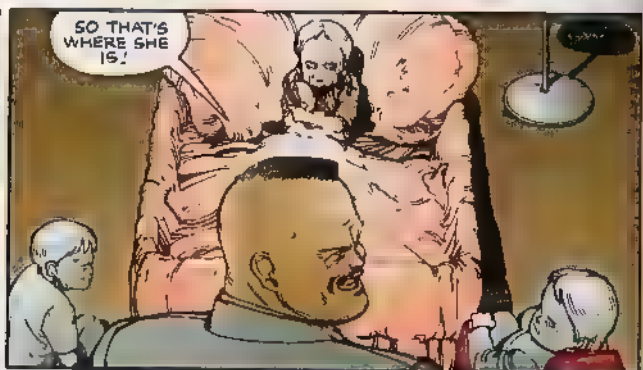
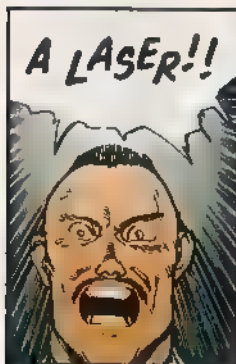
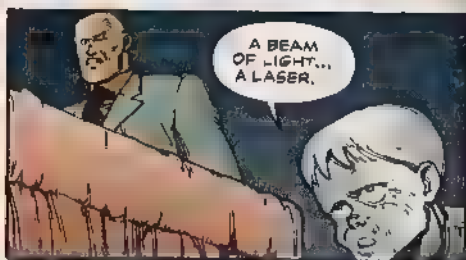
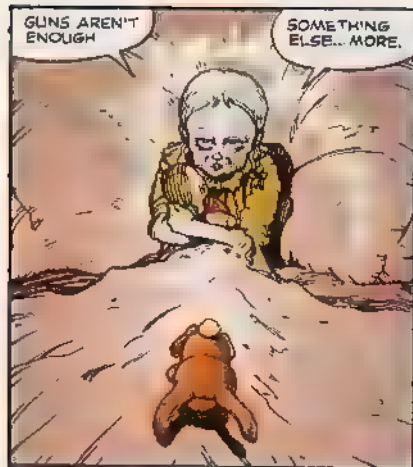
I'M ALL
IN FAVOR OF
IT!
WHERE
IS
HE?!

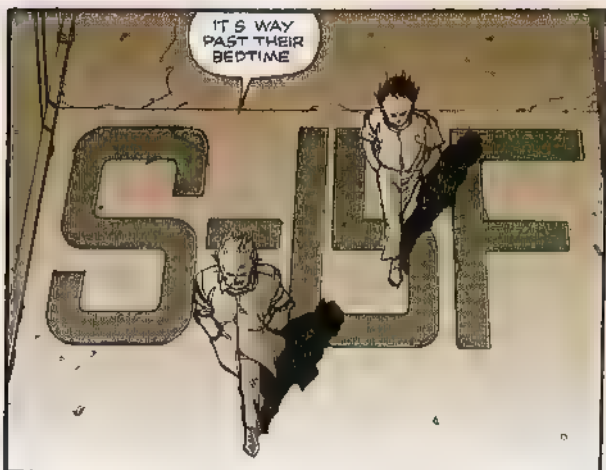
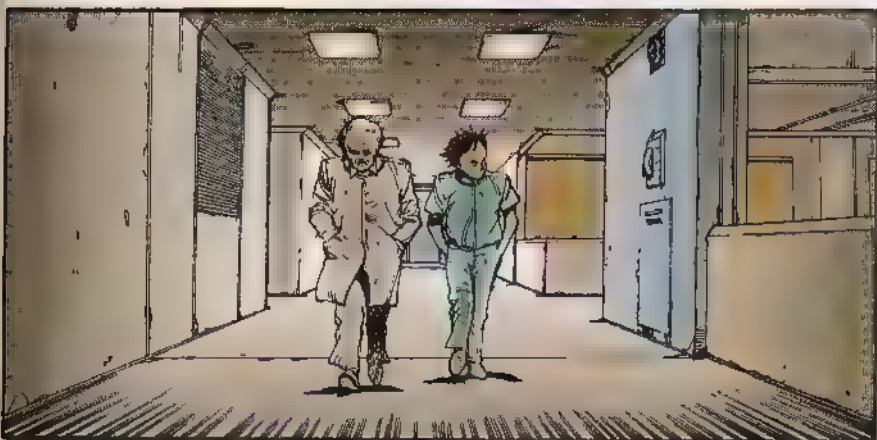
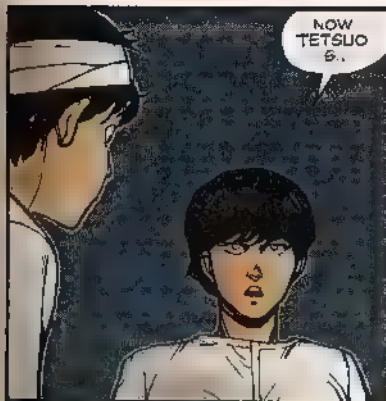
THAT'S WHY
WE HAVE TO
KILL
TETSUO.

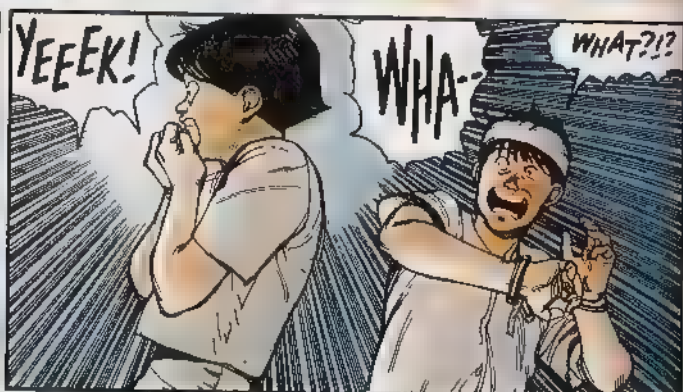
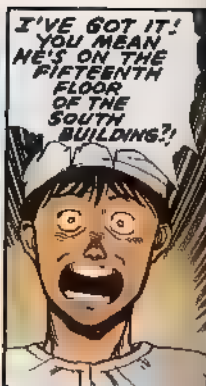
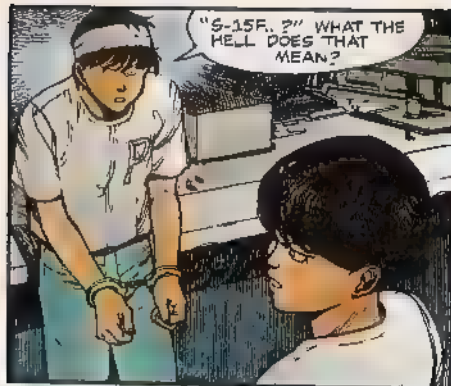
HOWEVER...

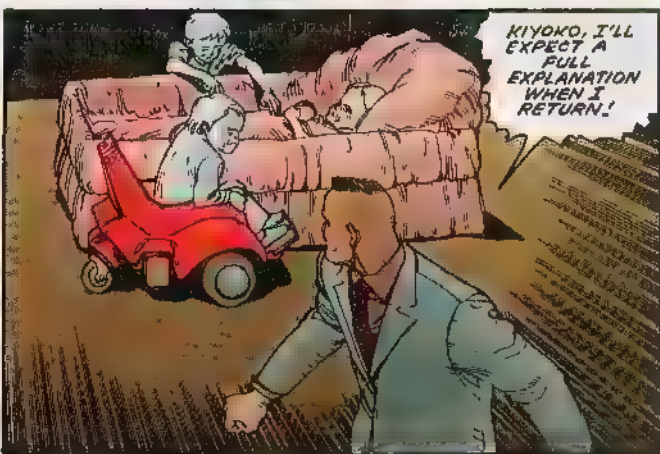
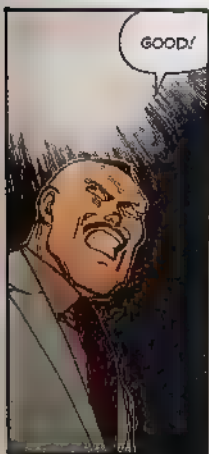
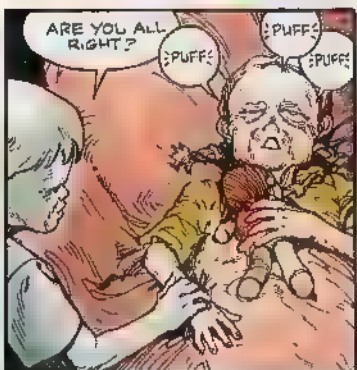
..T'S MORE
THAN WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH
ALONE, THAT'S
WHY..

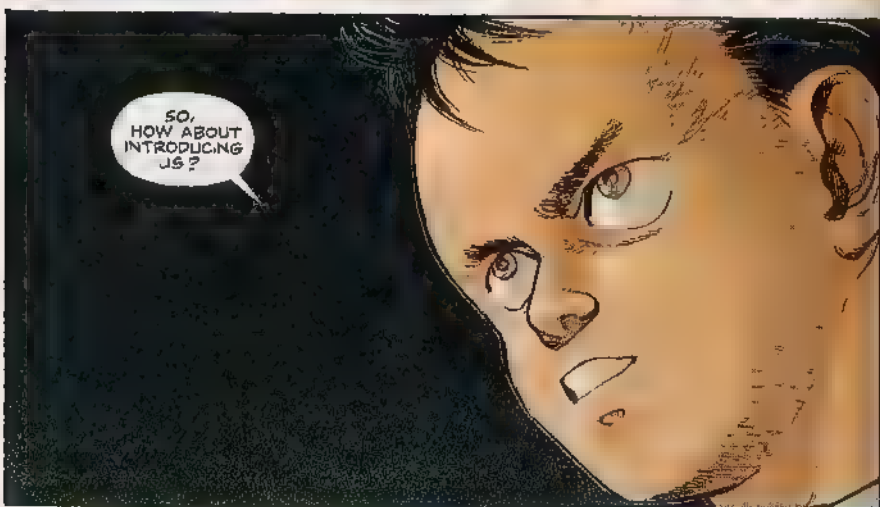
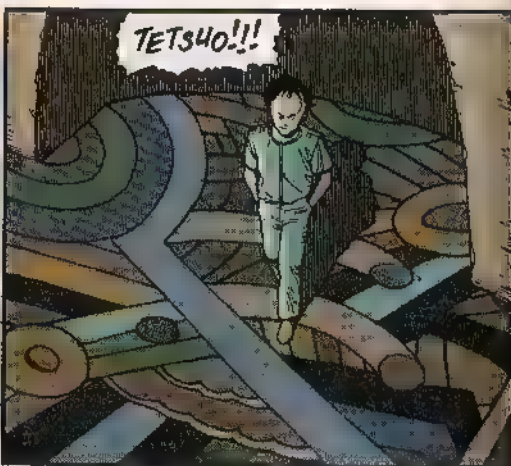
YOU
USED
THAT
GIRL!!
WHERE
IS
SHE
NOW?!

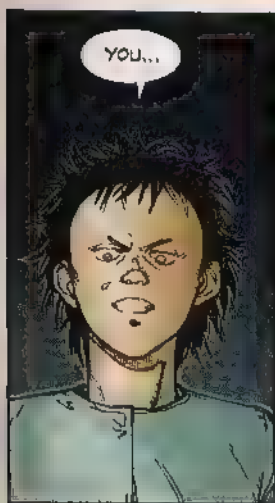
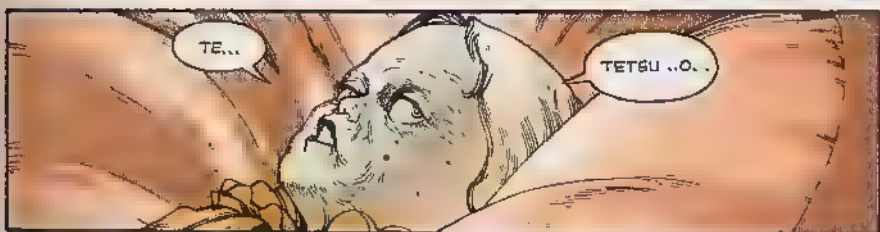
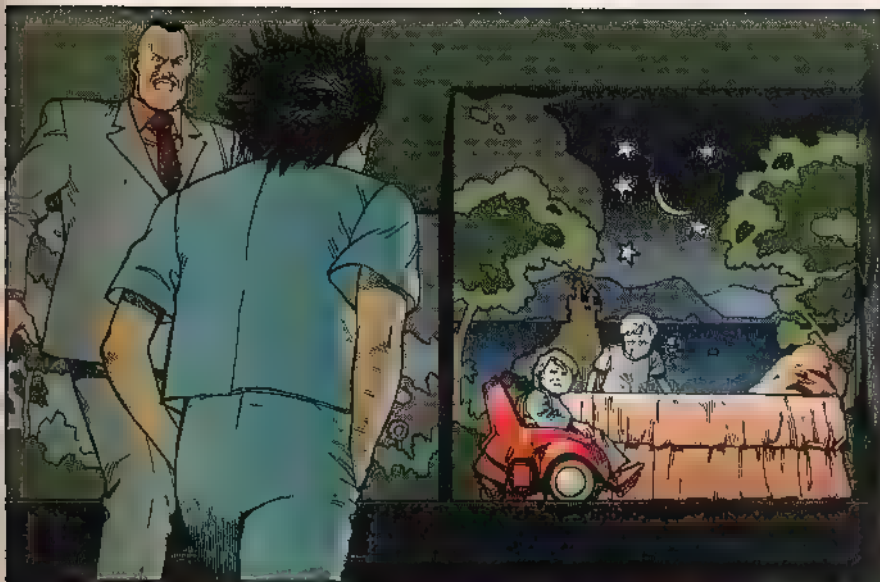


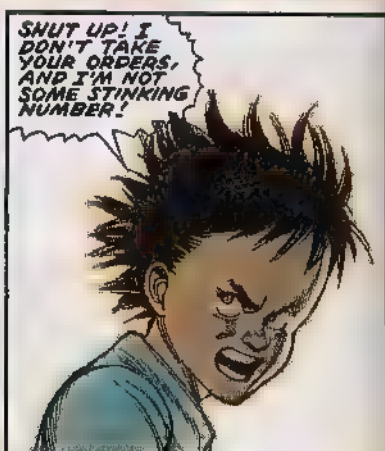
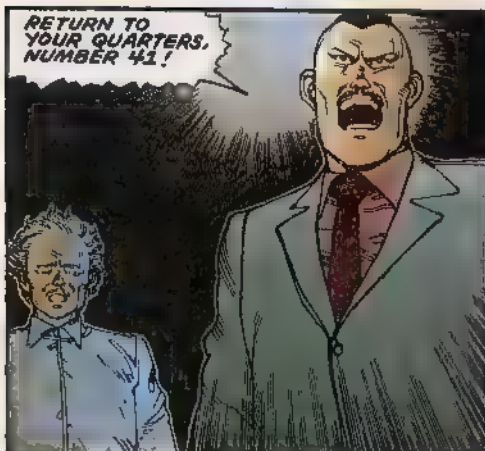
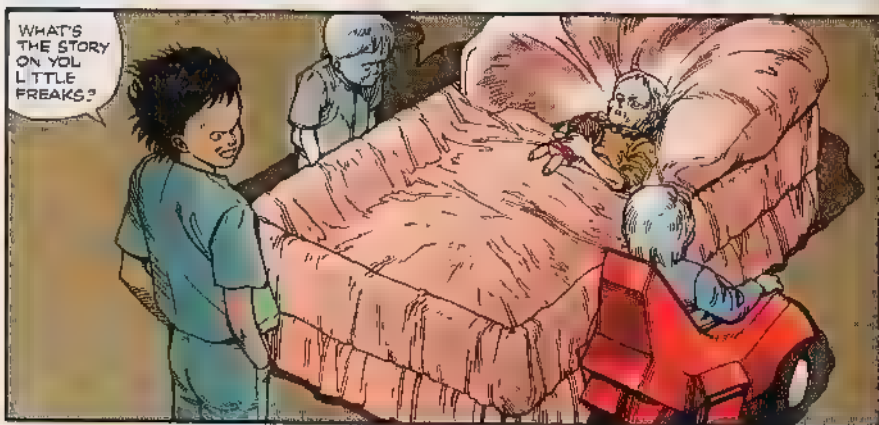
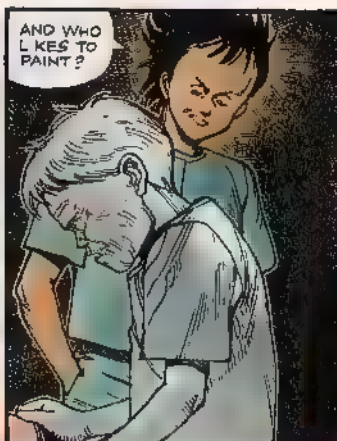


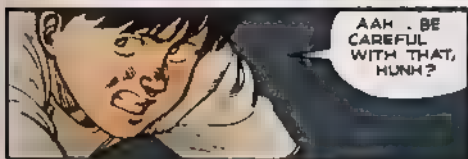


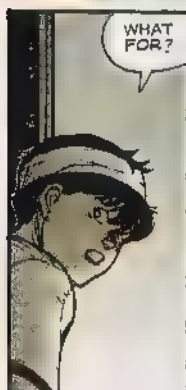
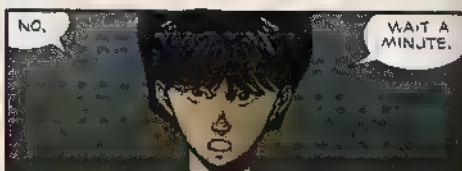












YOU STILL
HAVEN'T TOLD
ME ..

WHERE'S
AKIRA ?

WHA--

WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
AKIRA ?!?

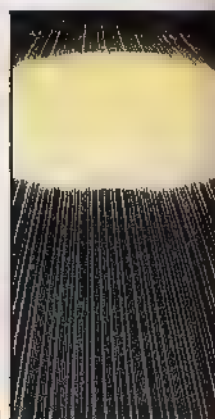
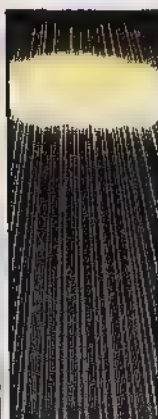
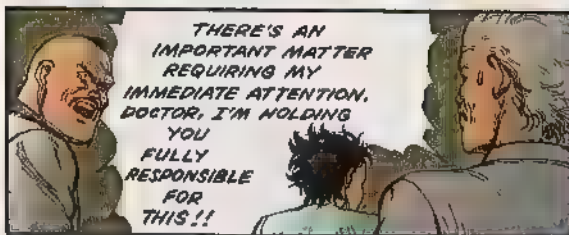
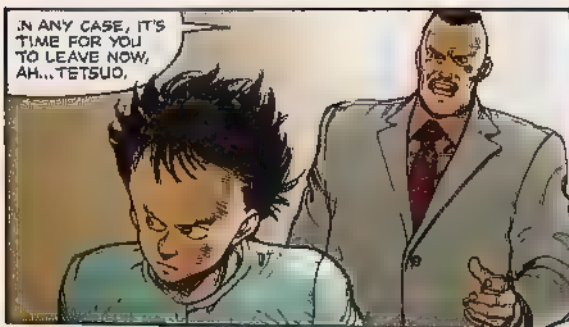
DOCTOR--?!

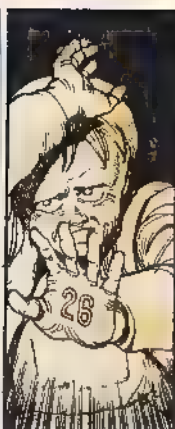
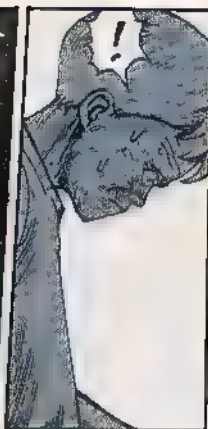
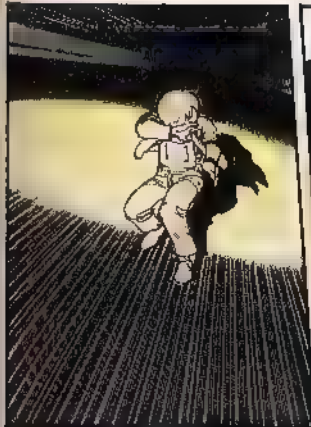
I
DIDN'T
TELL
HIM!
SIR!

WHERE'S
HE
SACKED
OUT?

NOT
HERE.

HMM?





YOU
GOTTA
BE
KIDDING!

E-B-M



WHAT'S
WRONG?

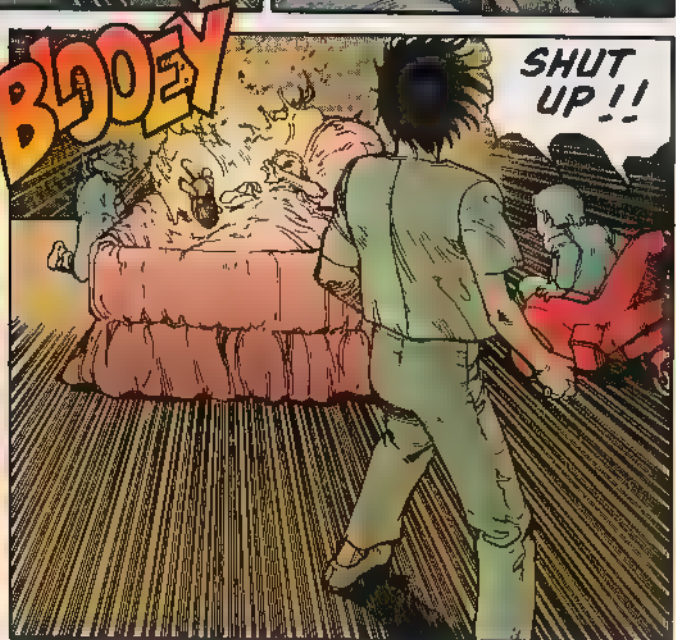
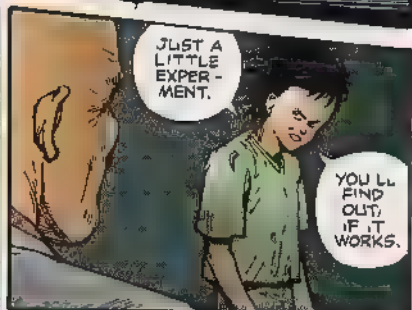
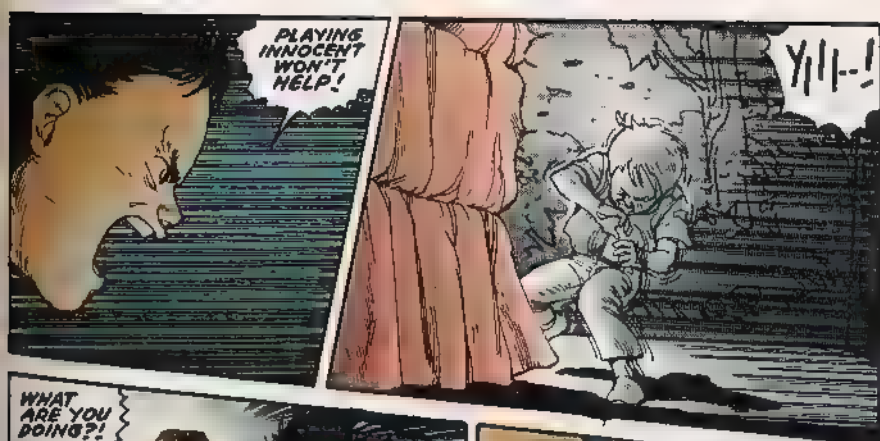


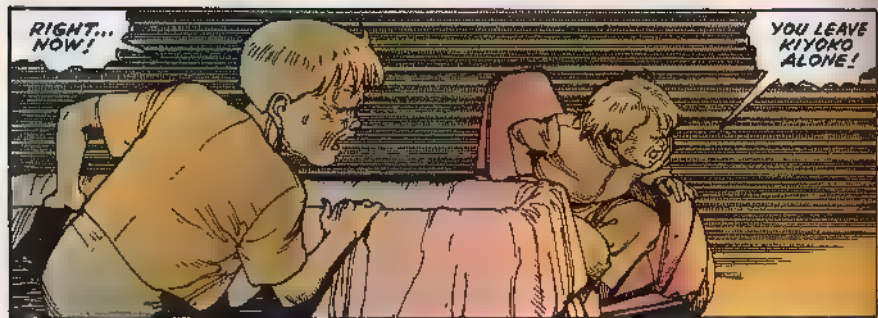
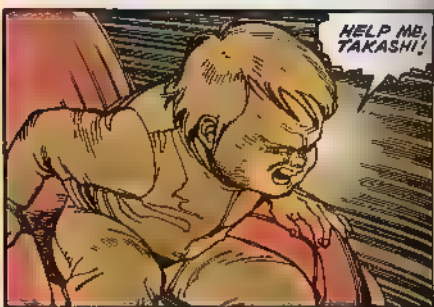
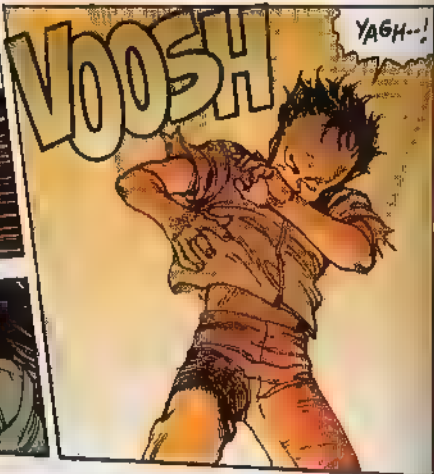
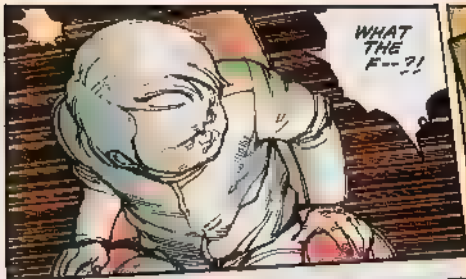
YOU FILTHY
PIG!

JUST
WHAT
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

I DON'T
TALK TO
PERVERTS!







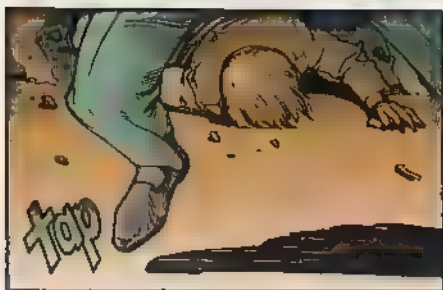
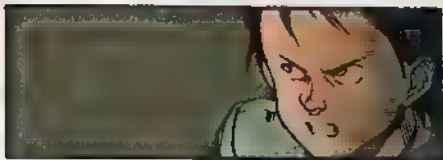
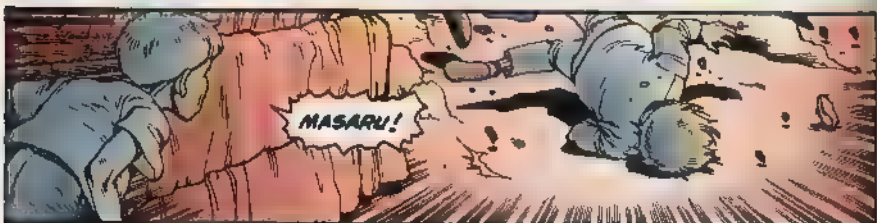
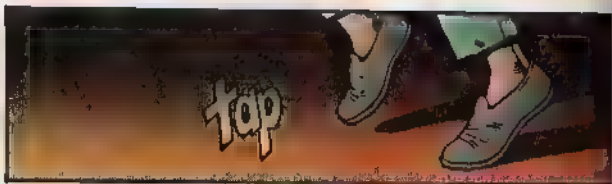
KRAK

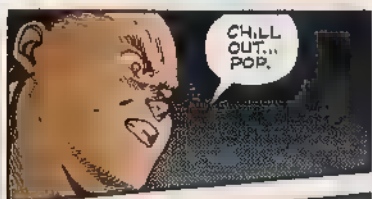
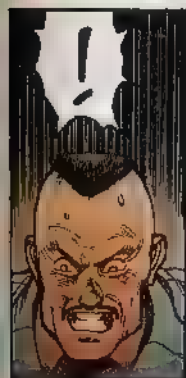
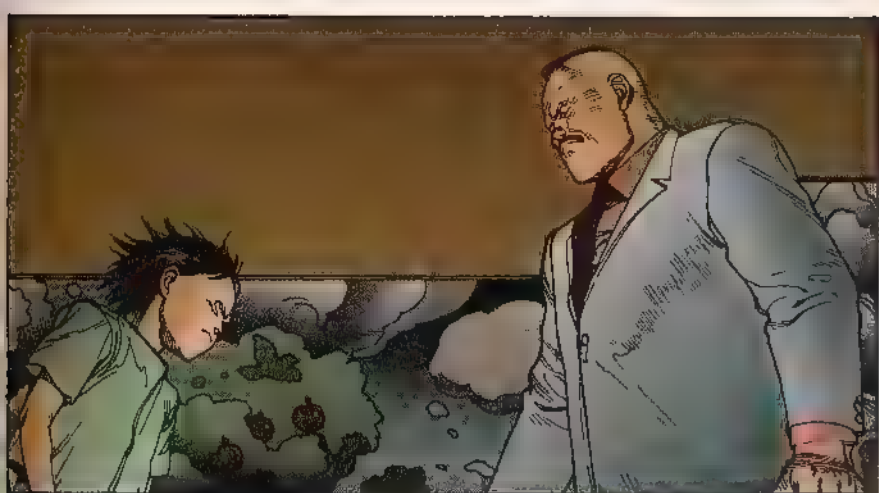
**MASARU!
TAKASHI!
STOP THIS
AT ONCE!**

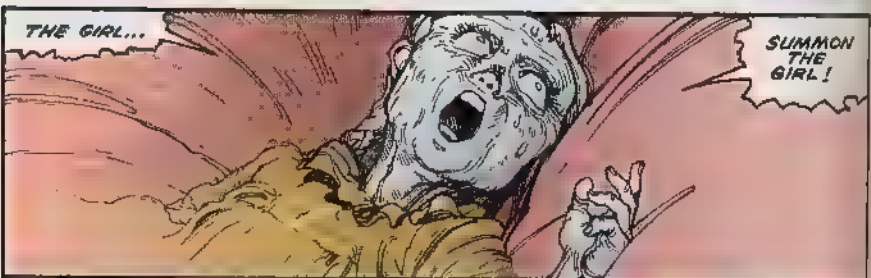
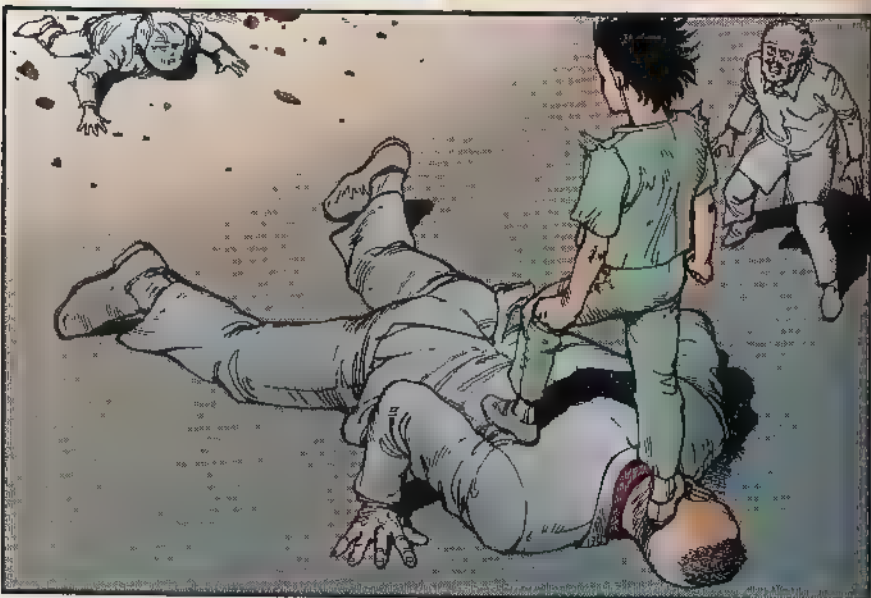
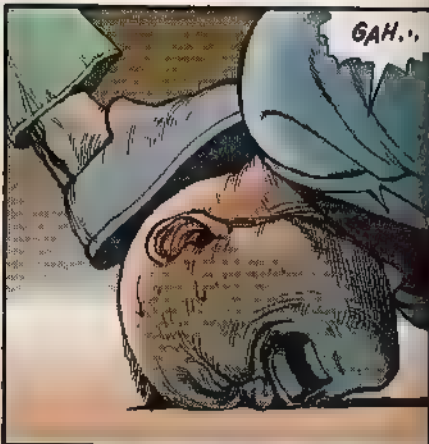
**THAT...
THE BEST
YOU CAN
DO?**

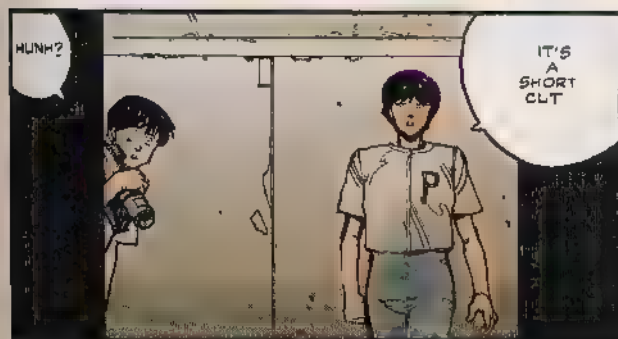
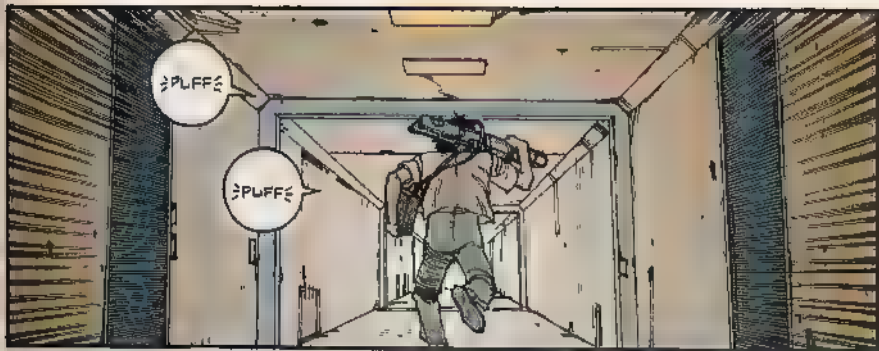
!GASP!

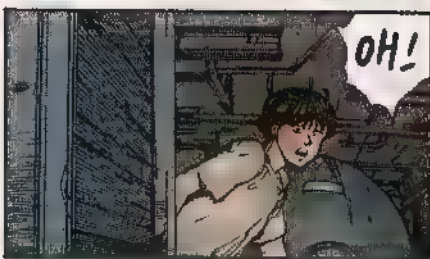
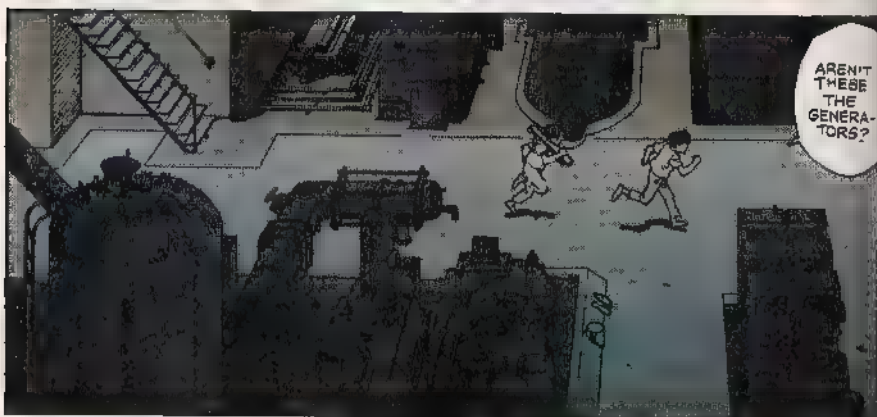
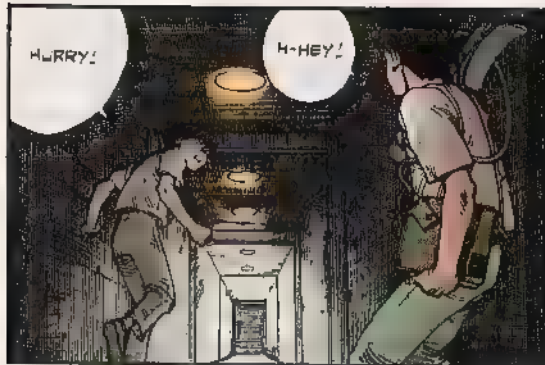
**YOU LITTLE
BASTARDS!**

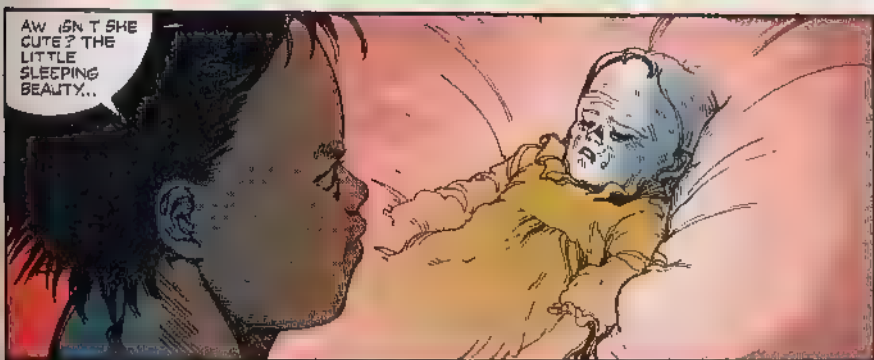
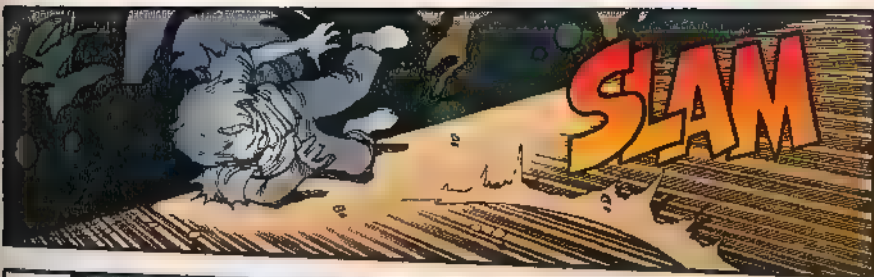


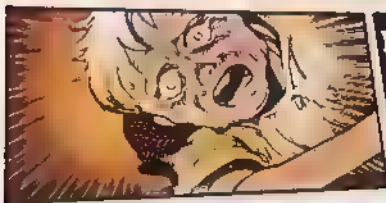


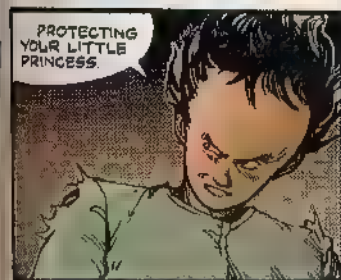
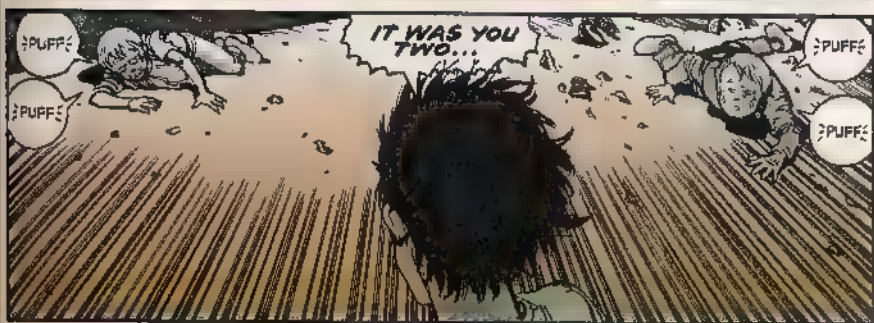
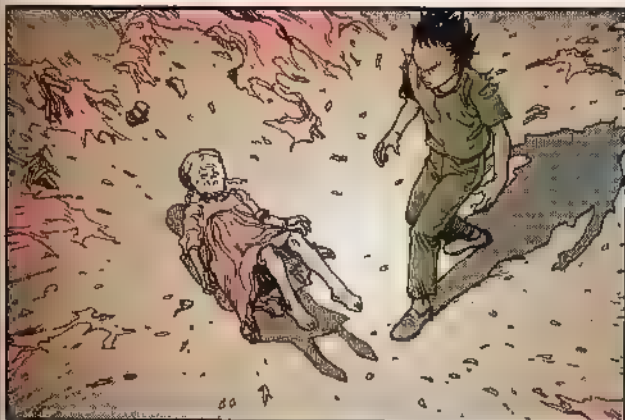


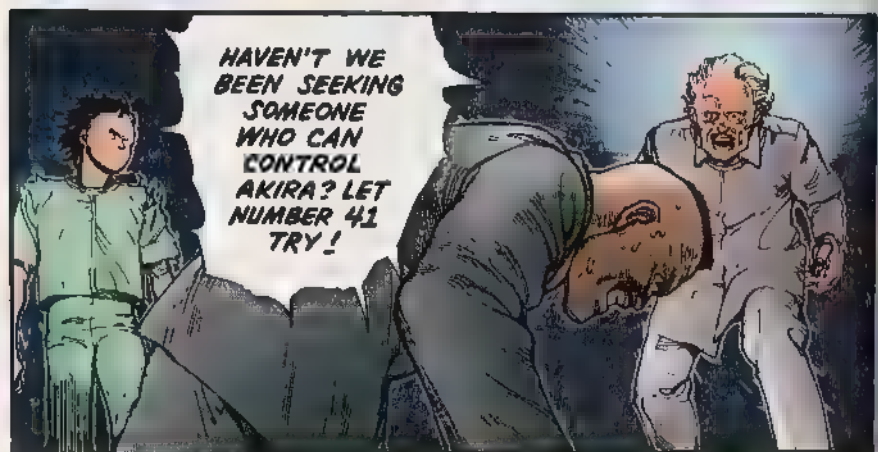
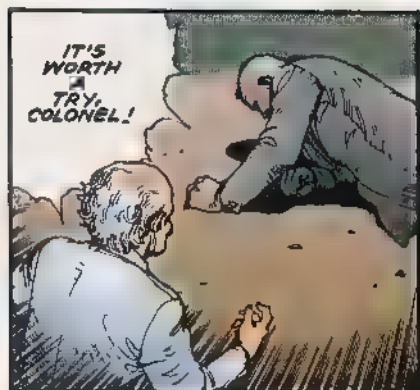












AKIRA
HAS HELD
UP
THIS
PROJECT
FOR
THIRTY
YEARS!

OF
COURSE,
WE'D
HAVE
TO
RUN
TESTS
FIRST...
ESTAB-
LISH
CON-
TROLS..

WE
CAN'T
THROW
AWAY
THIS
CHANCE
TO
MASTER
AKIRA!

PUFF:

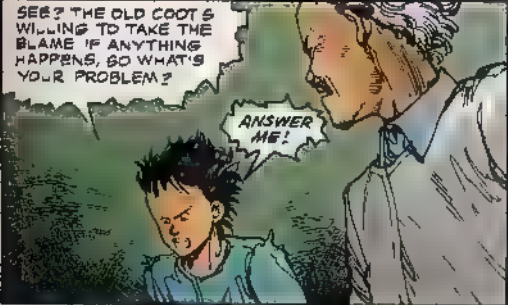
GASP:

GASP:

THIS WAY!
QUICKLY!


I DON'T KNOW
HOW I KNOW.
I JUST KNOW.

HOW DO YOU
KNOW?

A man with a mustache and a light blue shirt (Colonel) is talking to a young boy with spiky black hair and a blue shirt (Akira).


SEE? THE OLD COOT'S WILLING TO TAKE THE BLAME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SO WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

ANSWER ME!

Colonel is shown from the chest up, shouting with his mouth wide open. He is holding the back of Akira's head.

YOU CAN'T POSTPONE THIS THING FOREVER, COLONEL!

IT HAS TO HAPPEN SOMETIME!

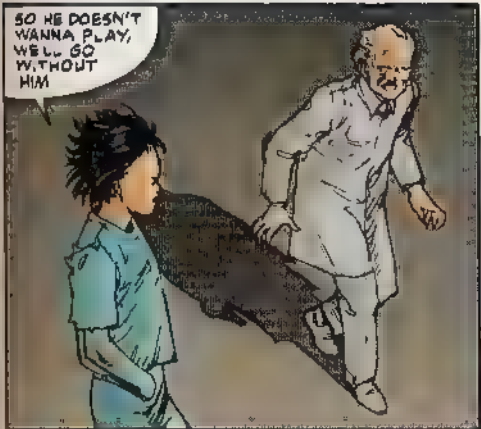
A close-up of Akira's face, looking up with a determined and slightly angry expression.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT AKIRA'S LIKE!

A large, close-up shot of Colonel's face, showing a stern and somewhat menacing expression.

BUT NOT YET! I CAN'T RISK MILLIONS OF LIVES--

-- JUST TO SATISFY YOUR "SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY" ... AND YOUR EGO!

Colonel is walking away from Akira, looking back over his shoulder. Akira is standing still, watching him go.

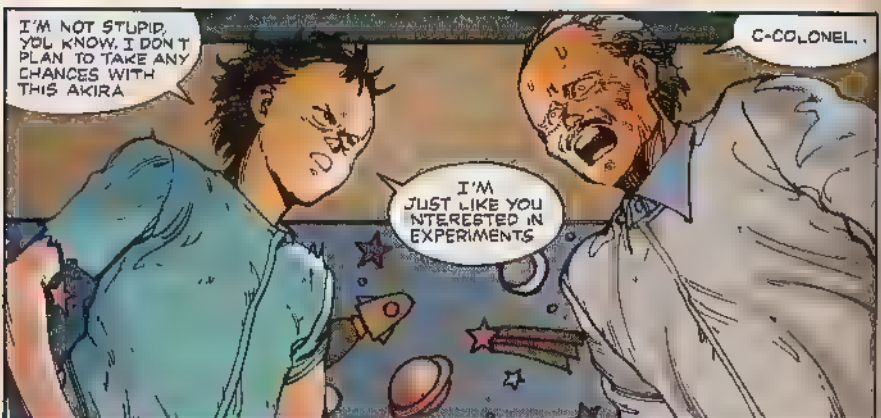
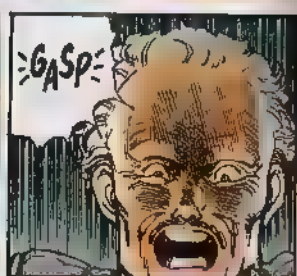
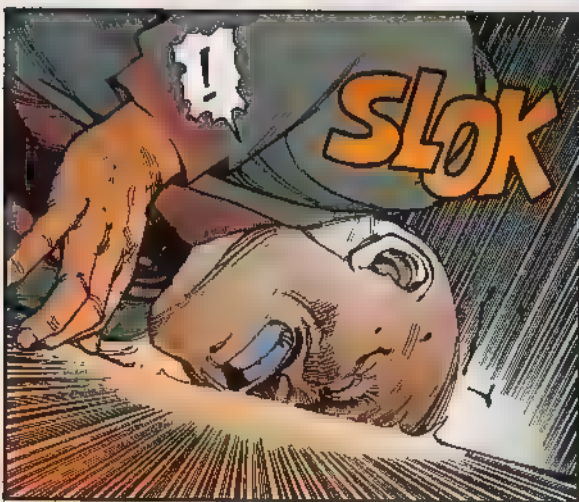
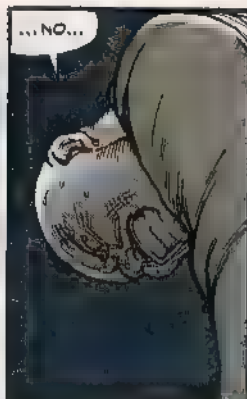
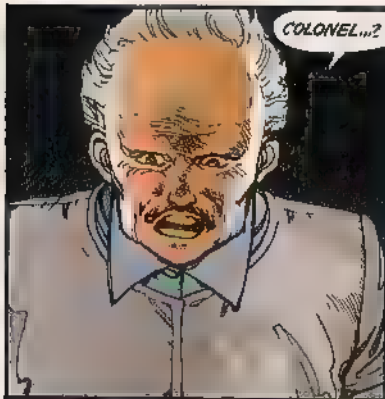
SO HE DOESN'T WANNA PLAY, WELL, GO WITHOUT HIM

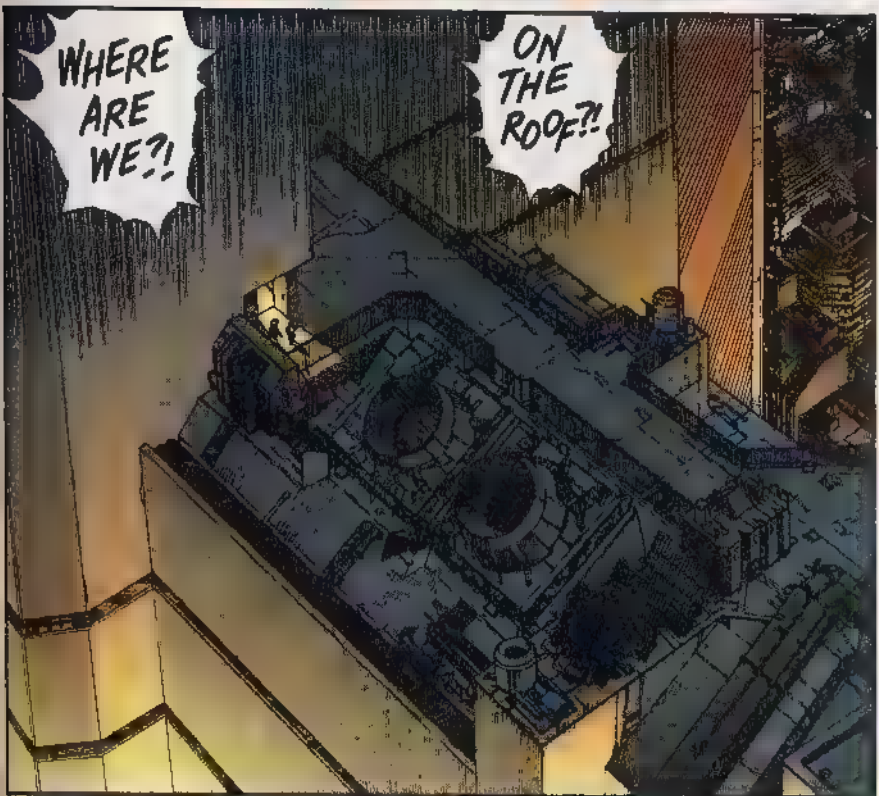
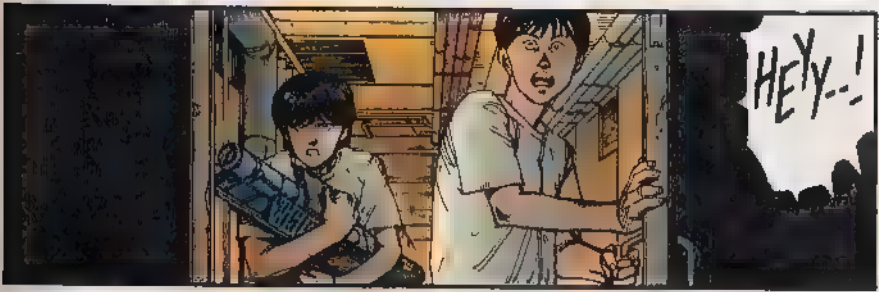
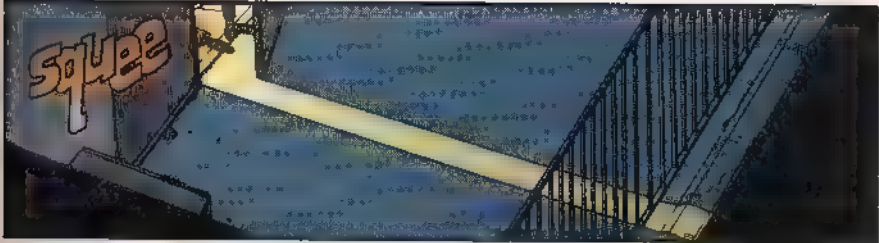
A close-up of Akira's face, looking thoughtful or perhaps a bit disappointed.

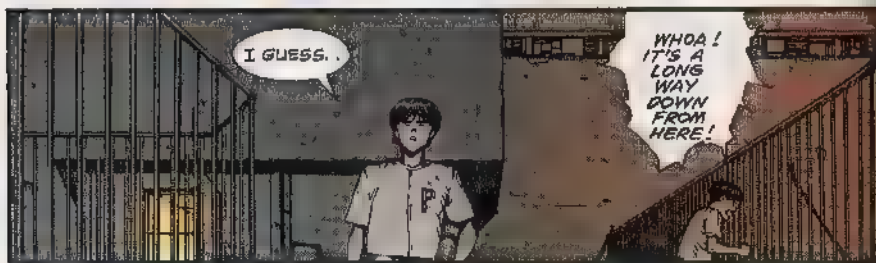
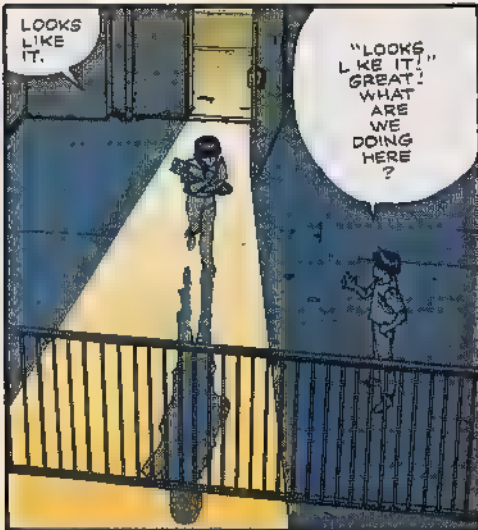
NOW...

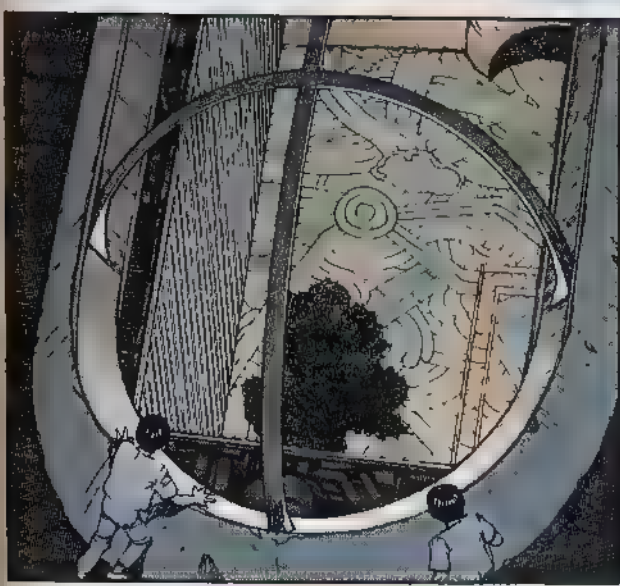
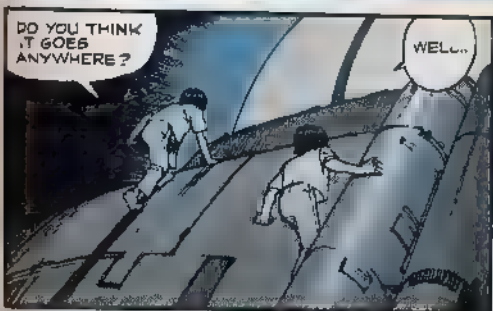
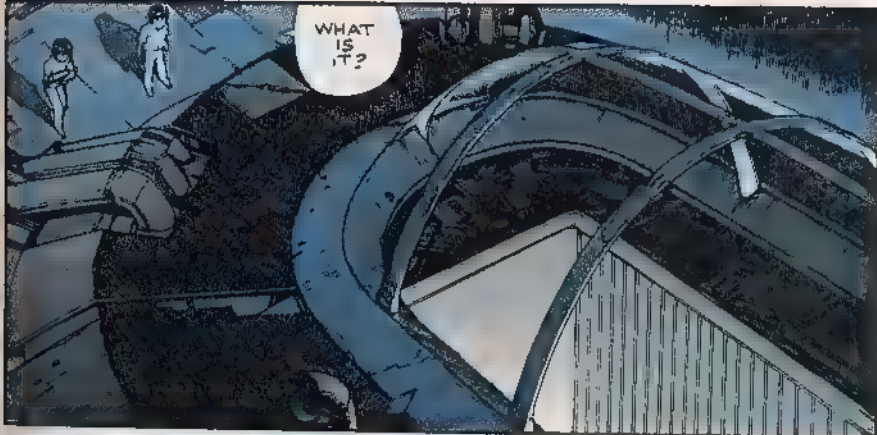
A close-up of Akira's face, looking more determined and slightly angry.

... JUST WHERE IS AKIRA?

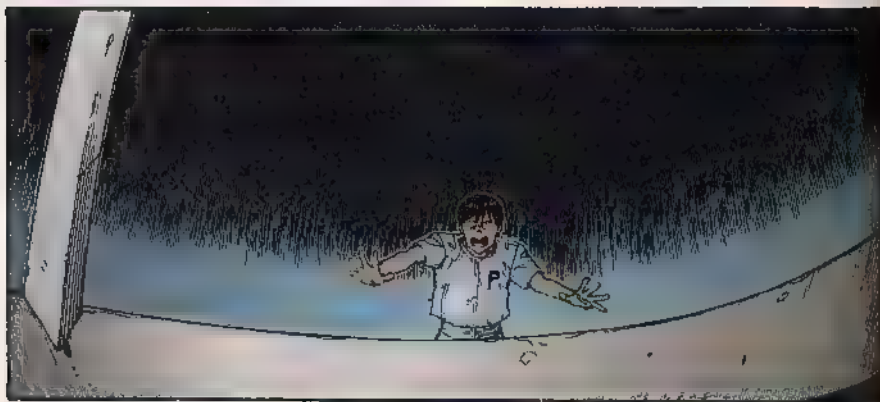
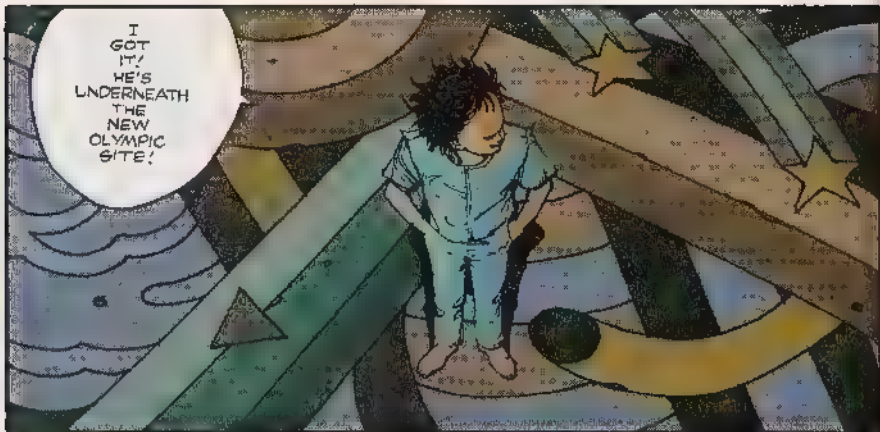






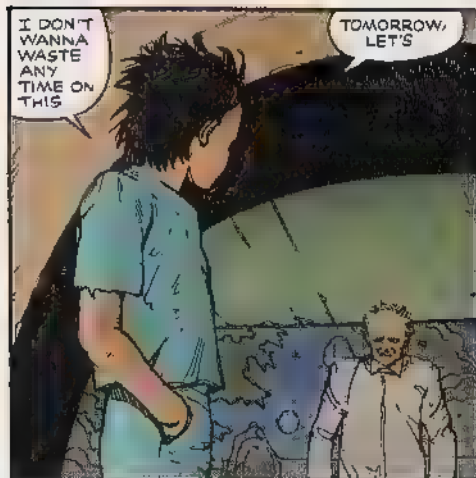


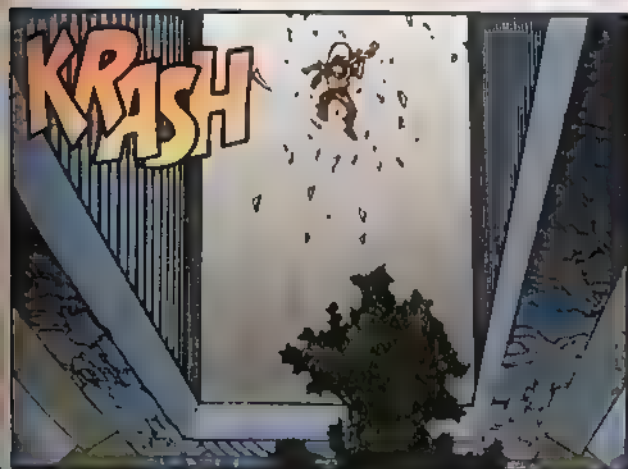
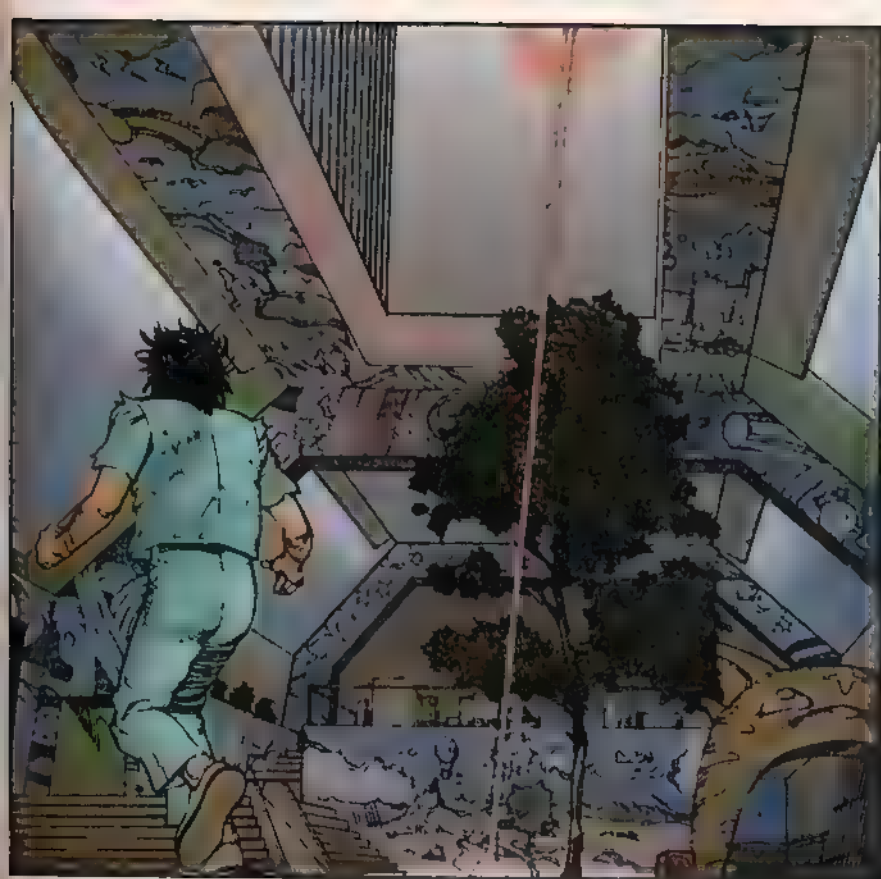
I
GOT
IT!
HE'S
UNDERNEATH
THE
NEW
OLYMPIC
SITE!

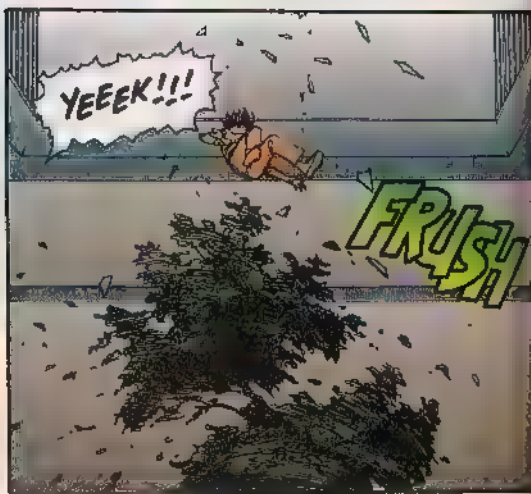
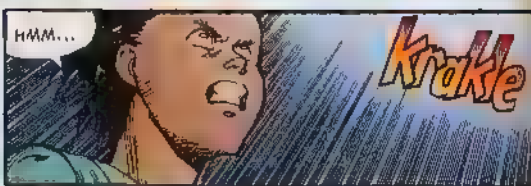
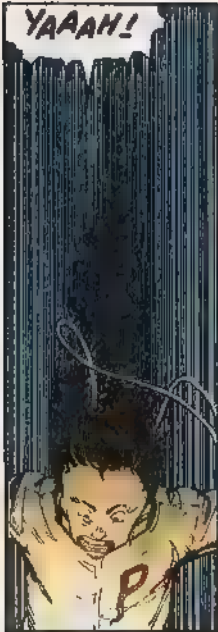


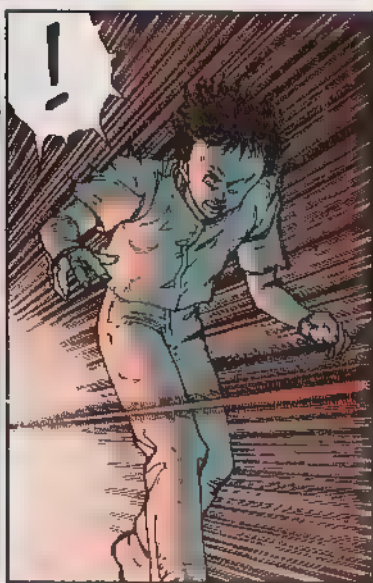
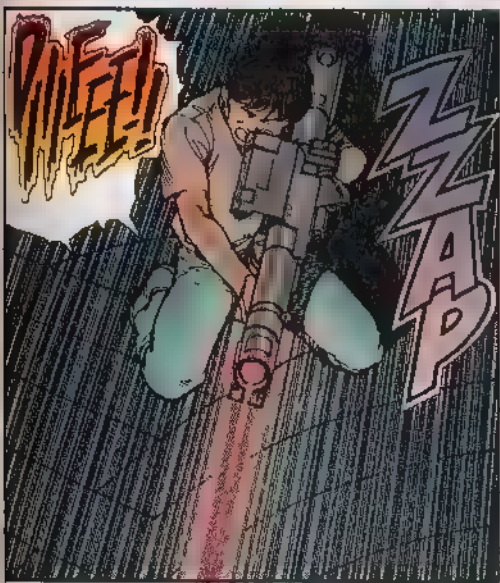
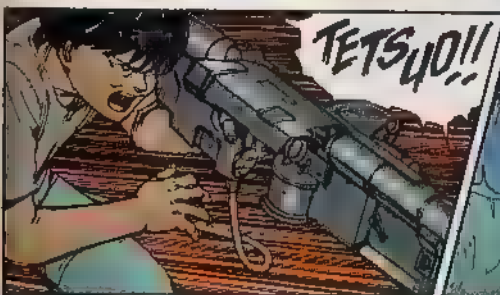
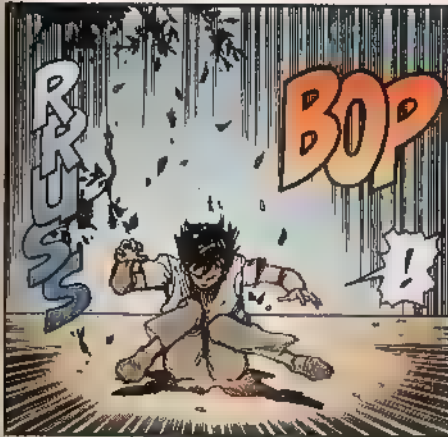
I DON'T
WANNA
WASTE
ANY
TIME ON
THIS

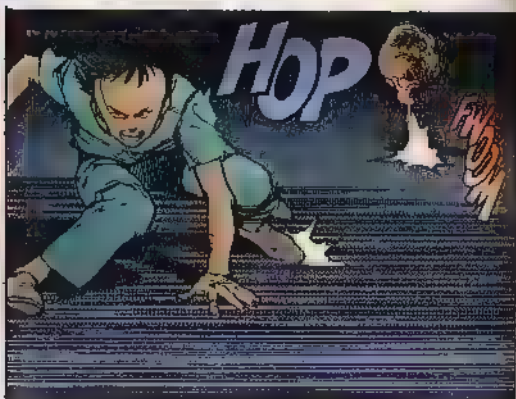
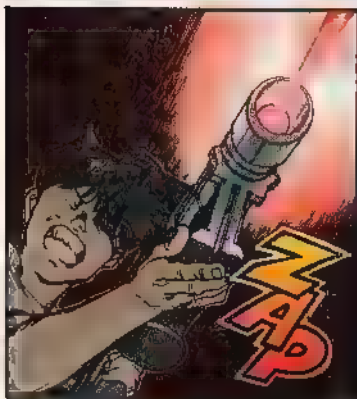
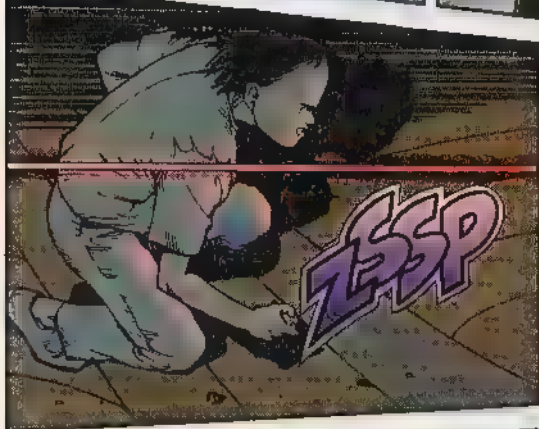
TOMORROW,
LET'S

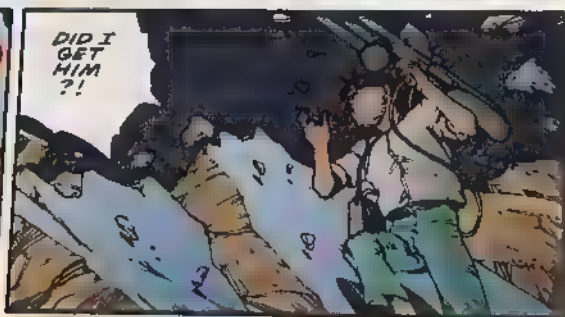
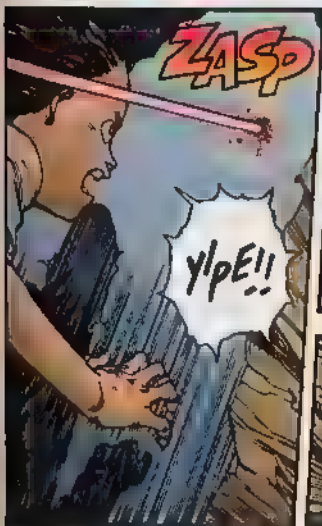


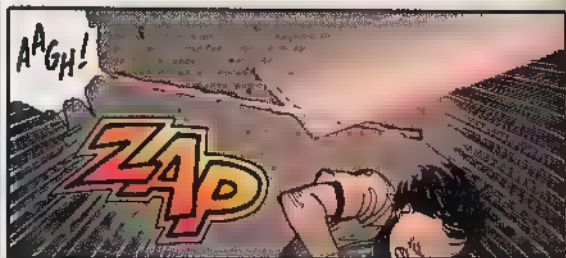
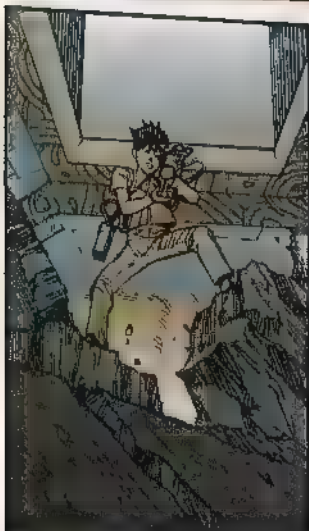
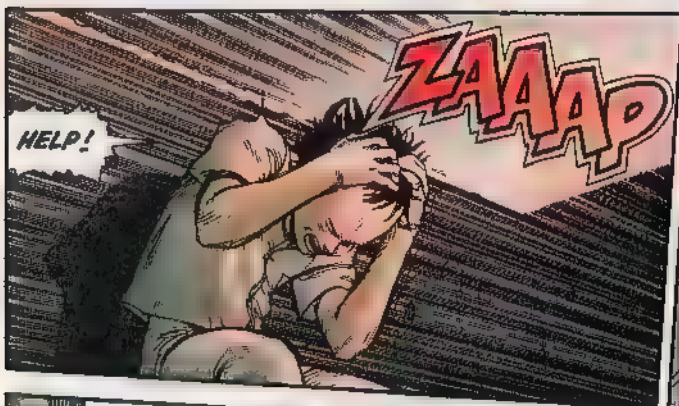
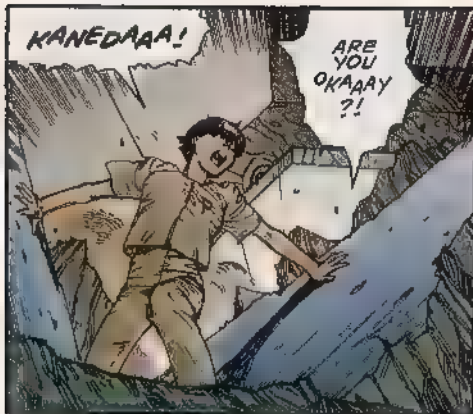


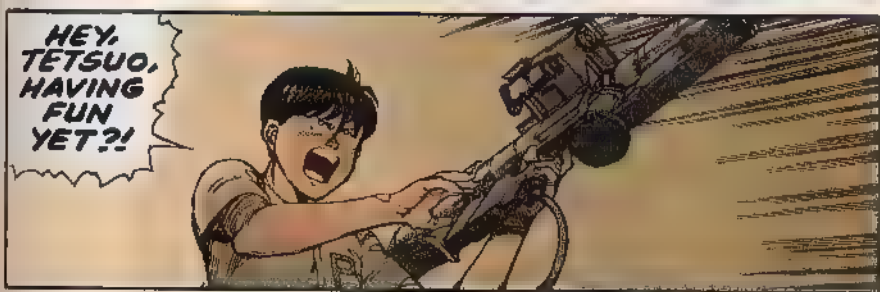
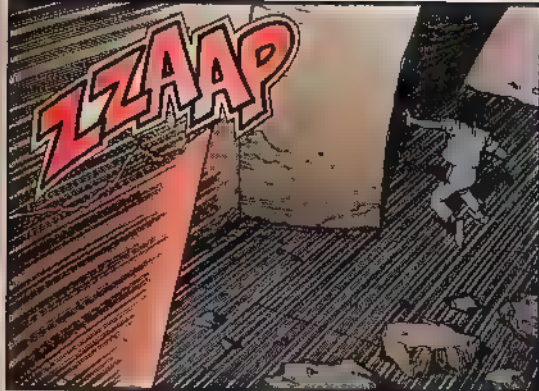


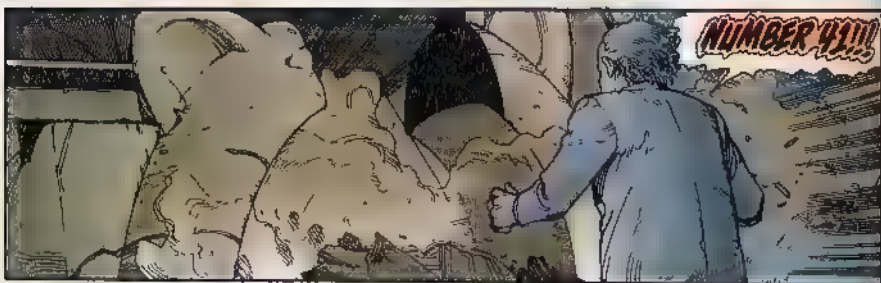
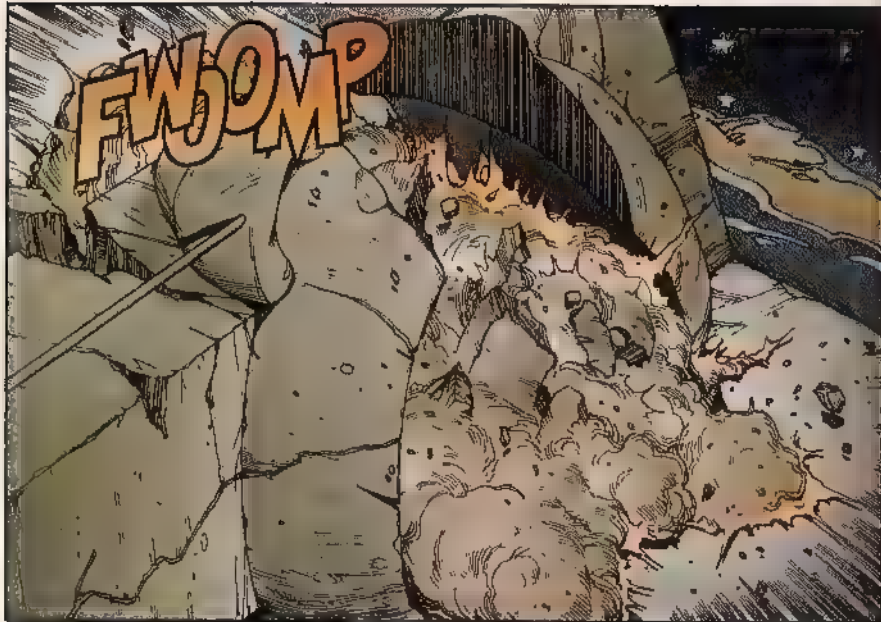


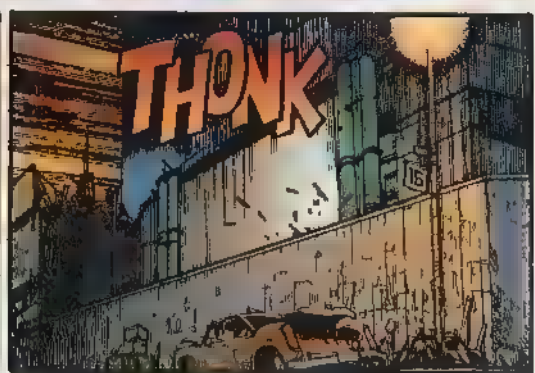
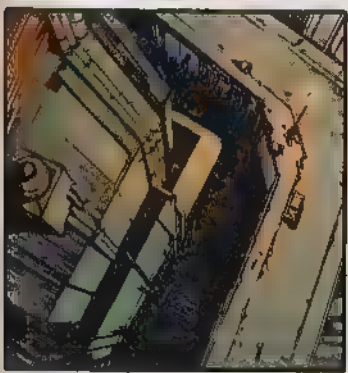


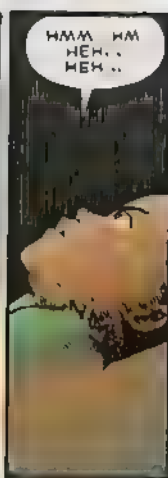
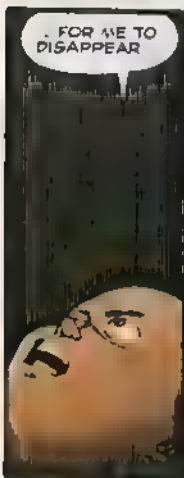
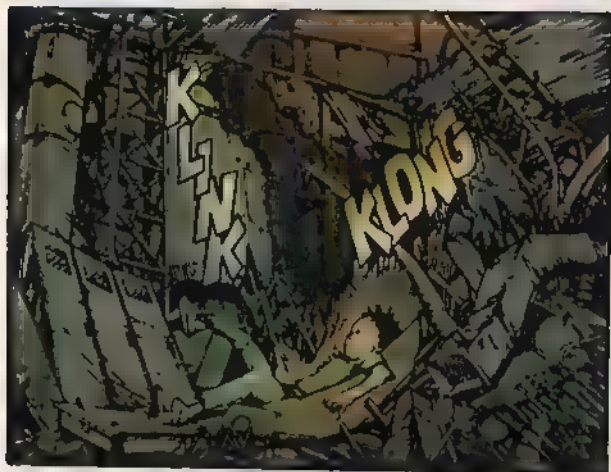








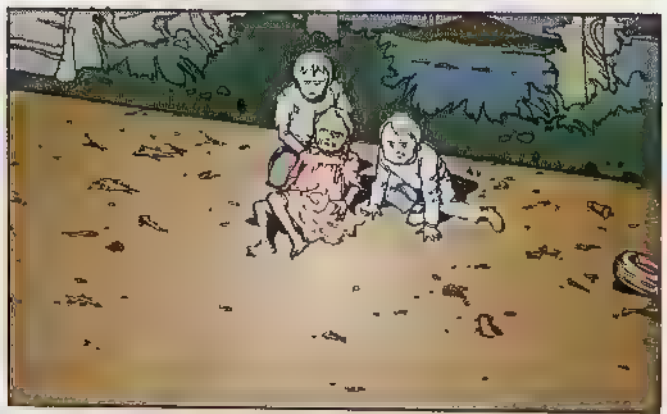




NUMBER 42!!!



HMMM...



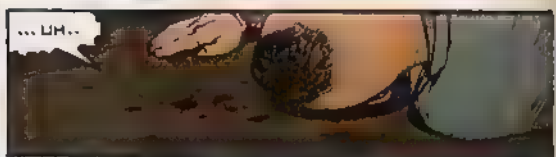
YEAH?



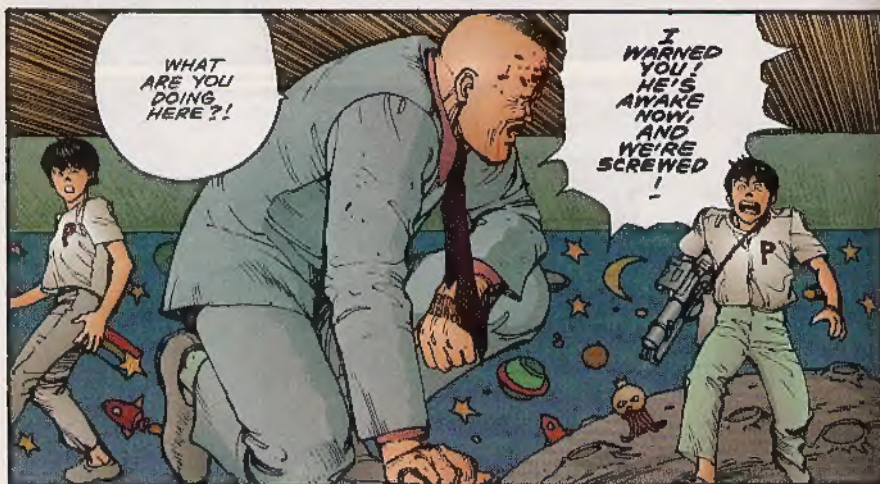
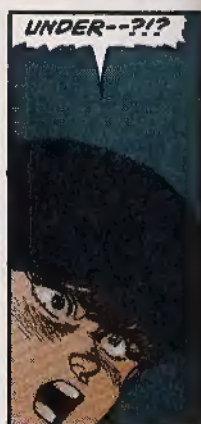
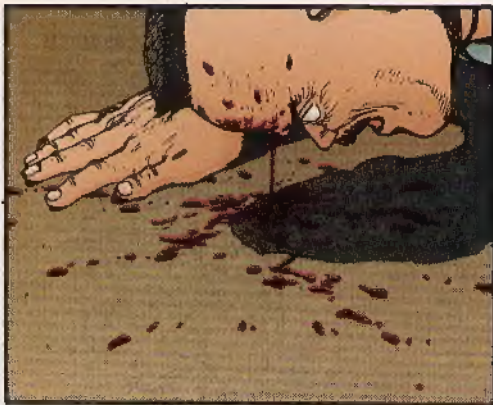
HEY!!!

IT'S YOU GUYS!









NEXT ISSUE: **STALKERS**

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Chaos reigns in the secret government project run by the Colonel in 21st Century Neo-Tokyo. Two prisoners—Kay, young agent of the underground resistance, and Kaneda, vengeance driven leader of a teenage motorcycle gang—are on the loose in his skyscraper headquarters. His special team of mutant children are plotting on their own against Tetsuo, delinquent become psychic-powered killer. Once the Colonel's hope as a check against the greatest threat of all—the sleeping paranormal giant, AKIRA—Tetsuo is proving wild and uncontrollable, bent on a test of psychic might with the children arrayed against him. As this showdown begins, Kaneda and Kay will be wild cards...perhaps in destroying Tetsuo, perhaps in driving him to even greater acts of violence.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

